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CALCUTTA DEC 27

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 20TH DECEMBER.

REFERRING to the excitement prevailing among the Sonthals, we stated in our last that they "were required to fill in the returns with the names of their females and children, to which they strongly objected." This statement we are requested to state on authority is erroneous. We are told that it is specially laid down in the instructions to enumerators that the names of females should neither be asked, nor put down in the schedules if there is any objection to giving them. Great stress has been laid upon this point throughout the preliminary census operations. The Sonthals we are informed have objected to give any names, even those of males, under the mistaken impression, apparently, that the registration of names will lead to taxation. If the Sonthals have this foolish idea, they may well be excused in not returning any names. Names are not essential to census statistics.

MUNICIPAL proceedings at Bombay continue to possess some general interest. They have now got through the second stage of their election of members of the Corporation, namely, that in which sixteen Commissioners are elected by the Justices. Some of the best known names have given place to others not so well known, but the first half dozen at least are the names of old and tried Commissioners. Sir Frank Souttar heads the list, a position due no doubt in the first place to his personal popularity, but also probably in part to the feeling that there should be a strong *entente cordiale* between the Corporation and the Police. We secure that object in Calcutta in a different way. The second on the list is the Hon'ble Rao Saheb V. N. Mandlik, Acting Government Pleader, Member of the Legislative Council, and Chairman of the present Corporation, an office which he is again likely to hold. We have then Mr. Grattan Geary, the able proprietor and editor of the *Bombay Gazette*, the other three being Dr. Blaney, the indefatigable Chairman of the Town Council, Mr. Matthew, and that experienced and able official Mr. Dossabhoy Framjee, C. S. I. We regret, however, to miss some well known names from the list of the sixteen elect, among which we may mention those of Mr. Martin Wood of the *Bombay Review* and Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy. We hope that Government will put the matter right by appointing these gentlemen in its list, which has yet to be published.

THE LATEST news from Gilgit is that Major Biddulph, with a small force had visited Sher Kila, lately besieged by the Yassinis, and had passed onwards up the Valley of the Yassin River to the Frontier Forts, lately captured by Pahlawan Bahadur. Major Biddulph's object, it is stated, is to collect information regarding the late outbreak, and to learn the effect of the occupation of Yassin by the Chitral Chief. Will the Maharaja of Kashmir not give his version of the cause of the Gilgit outbreak?

AT THE last annual distribution of prizes to the pupils of the Doveton College Sir Richard Garth, who presided on the occasion, delivered an excellent address. He referred to the employment of Eurasians and said:

> It is taught by some that the Government in its distribution of appointments, ought to be at least as considerate towards Europeans and Eurasians as it is to the Native community. It is said that those whose forefathers have come out to India, at a time when there was much more demand than there is now for European labour and talent, deserve from the Government at least as much consideration as the children of the soil; and that it is unfair to accord to Natives a preferential claim to these appointments, when poor Eurasians and Europeans may be found quite as worthy of such prizes as the Natives. Well, my friends, there may be, for aught I know, a great deal of truth in these arguments. Those who think so, have a perfect right to press their claims upon the Government; and I am quite sure that the Government will fairly and fully consider those claims. For myself I have heard and read quite enough upon that subject to be satisfied that it is a very difficult question; and I feel that it would be in me nothing short of the presumption of ignorance even to suggest what the Government ought to do. But I know what, so far as my own interests are concerned, I should like to see some of these days. I should like to see free trade in all these appointments. I should like to see all public preferment open to free and fair competition, and let the best and most deserving get the prizes.

Nobly said. All appointments should be given away by open competition, and let the most deserving win the prizes. Fair field and no favour is our motto. But will the Government surrender its patronage?

WE ARE exceedingly sorry to record the sudden expiration of our comic brother, the *Indian Charivari*. To all appearance he was enjoying good health and vigour, but there was it would seem a canker within. Our laughing brother did his part well, and all whom he amused will shed sympathizing tears over his grave. His dying words are as follows: "If we have caused a laugh, our object has been attained: if we have ever unintentionally caused pain, we also are pained." Peace to his ashes!

IT IS stated, but the statement has been since contradicted, that Sir Donald Stewart will succeed Sir Frederic Haines as Commander-in-Chief of India. Sir Donald, it is said, is an intense Conservative in the matter of Army reform.

TUESDAY, 21ST DECEMBER.

IT IS stated, that the annual accumulation of wealth in Germany is 200 millions of dollars; in Great Britain [illegible] millions; in France 375 millions, in the United States 825 millions.

BABOO WOOMA CHARAN DAS, Head-master of the Arrah School, has been appointed Superintendent of Education in the Kuch Behar State.

A CASE of human sacrifice lately came before the Madras High Court. Certain hillmen, it is said, from the Viziagapatam Hill Tracts, descended on the village of Chitrakonda, and carried off all the villagers they could lay their hands on. The hill-men had determined to make a raid on a neighbouring police station; and believing that a human sacrifice would win divine favour for the enterprise, procured their victims, as narrated, from Chitrakonda, and after the ceremonies customary on such occasions, cut their heads off. Nine hill-men were arrested and brought before the Sessions Judge of Viziagapatam, charged with murder. Their leader, who was said to have killed the unfortunate villagers with his own sword, was sentenced to be hanged, seven of the others to transportation for life, and the ninth was let off. A week ago the case came before the Madras High Court, which confirmed the capital sentence, but annulled the sentence of transportation, ordering the seven to be discharged from custody.

THE FRENCH SENATE have agreed to the Girls Secondary Education Bill. It rejected, by 142 to 126, a proposal to insert religious as well as moral teaching in the curriculum, as also M. Jules Simon's proposal to strike out moral teaching.

A REVOLUTIONARY proclamation has been issued by the Nihilists in Russia commenting upon the recent execution of the State criminals at St. Petersburg. Several Catholic priests who have been exiled to Siberia since the Polish insurrection have, it is stated, been pardoned by the Emperor and allowed to return to Russia.

THE PHILADELPHIA correspondent of the *Times* says that intensely cold weather has spread over the United States and Canada, the temperature falling below zero in many places. Several persons have been frozen to death. The navigation on the lakes and canals has been closed much before the usual time, and barges containing 10,000,000 bushels of grain are fast frozen in the Erie Canal, causing a sharp advance in prices. The heavy frosts in the Gulf States have also imperilled the sugar and cotton crops.

MR. BRADLAUGH, M. P., delivered a lecture at Woolwich on the subject of perpetual pensions, and stated his intention in the next session of Parliament to move for a committee of inquiry with a view to the abolition of such pensions. He is determined to make his influence in Parliament felt.

THE QUEEN has been pleased to direct that Mr. James Craig Loggie shall cease to be a member of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and George, of which he was made a Companion in 1873, and that his name should be erased from the register of the Order. This is an apt illustration of the saying—a breath can unmake what a breath has made.

WEDNESDAY, 22ND DECEMBER.

THE DEATH of Sir Alexander Cockburn will remind admirers of that little-read poem "St. Stephen's," of he lines in which his life-long friend, the late Lord Lytton, alludes to the oratorical gifts of the late Lord Chief Justice:—

> "Hush'd were the Benches when, with careless ease,
> With accents matchless and melodious keys,
> With words the choicest, that seem strung by chance,
> Cockburn's frank mind reveal'd its large expanse."

It was in the Pacifico debate that the late Lord Chief Justice first showed his strength as a debater. In 1875 Mr. Disreali, the then Prime Minister, in connection with the Tichbourne trial, paid the following graceful tribute to Sir Alexander Cockburn: "Why, Sir, we know something about Lord Chief Justice Cockburn. He is a man of transcendent abilities. He was for a considerable time a member of this House. He did not belong to the political connexion of which I am proud to be a member; but I was proud always of being a member of the House in which Lord Chief Justice Cockburn sat. His eloquence is remembered in this House, and when he left us to ascend to the highest tribunal almost within the realm, he sustained the reputation which he had attained here and in the courts of his country with learning and majesty. But it is not only as an eminent judge that he has distinguished himself; he has shown himself a jurist and publicist of the highest character—a man who can be trusted with the most important national interests, and who, at a critical period, vindicated those interests and sustained the honour of his country."

A LONDON PAPER thus writes of Mr. Parnell, the great Irish Agitator: "He is very abstemious, drinking little but water or tea. He smokes a great deal and is never in want of a good "weed," which he proffers very liberally to his friends. At the same time he keeps a neat little wine-cellar, and can, when the occasion arises, regale his guests with a choice vintage. In other respects his style of living is very homely. His only retainers are a venerable matron and a man who looks after his horse, the garden, and the general affairs of the house. In the intervals of agitation he is a great rider, a moderately keen sportsman, something of a farmer, and often speaks of himself as a Cincinnatus who has been regretfully compelled to relinquish his cabbages. Mr. Parnell has always been a more or less solitary man, seeing little company, and leading rather an introspective life."

A CORRESPONDENT at Nubigunge in Sylhet writes:

> We had a very full crop this year, but unfortunately a kind of insect has damaged it to the extent of one-fourth. There was some rain on the night of the 12th instant attended with high wind.

WE HAVE received the proceedings of a meeting of the Krishnaghur Epidemic Fever Relief Committee held on the 19th instant. The meeting resolved to commence relief operations in the town without delay, to set on foot enquiries to ascertain the exact state of things in the Moffussil, to purchase quinine, cinchona alcholoid and loaf sugar and warm clothing for distribution. Dr. Bensley, who is in charge of Relief operations in connexion with the Nuddea Ward's Estate, it was further resolved, should be requested to carry on his operations in concert with the Town Committee. Letters have been addressed to all zemindars in and out of the district inviting their contributions in aid of the relief operations. Similar letters have been addressed to the sub-divisional officers of the Nuddea District to raise local subscriptions.

WE HAVE received a copy of a Bengali translation of the Life of Mahomed Mohisin originally written in English by Babu Monendranath Mittra M. A. B. L. The translator is Babu Promothnath Mittra. From the hasty glance we have been able to give it we are inclined to think that the translation is faithful. The name of Mahomed Mohisin deserves to be embalmed in the memory of all Bengalis, whether Hindus or Mahomedans, for his noble charities; his biographer who has redeemed the ingratitude of the nation by reviving the memory of its great benefactor is entitled to our grateful acknowledgments.

AN INDIAN party consisting of the Duke of Sutherland, Lord Lytton, Sir Bartle Frere, Sir Richard Temple, Canon Duckworth, and Sir Frederick Roberts were to go to Sandringham on the 27th ultimo, on a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales.

THREE RUSSIAN officers, it is said, have arrived at Balkh on their way to Kabul, charged with a mission of congratulation on his accession to the Ameer Abdul Rahman. The city of Bokhara was illuminated for three nights in honour of their advent.

THURSDAY, 23RD DECEMBER.

WE LEARN from a correspondent at Serampore that the Commissioner of the Division and the Magistrate and Collector of Hooghly were present at the last meeting of the Serampore Municipality held on the 21st instant to enquire into the reasons of misunderstanding between the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of that Municipality. Fault was found with the proceedings of both parties on the ground of illegality and a reconciliation was recommended. Mr. Tremearne the Vice Chairman expressed his intention to resign his office after the expiration of the current year.

THE ITALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY of A de Gubernatis has an article on Raja Showrendra Mohun Tagore, of which *Native Opinion* gives an English translation. We give the following extract from it :

He is a learned Hindu, president of the Musical Society of Calcutta and not only one of the most titled Hindu living ; the bare enumeration of his titles would occupy more than two columns of this Dictionary. He has the merit of having consecrated all his studies to the diffusion of the knowledge of the ancient Aryan music of India, to resuscitate it, and to make it again popular. Younger brother of the Maharajah Joteendra Mohun Tagore, of illustrious ancient royal lineage. Sourindro Mohun Tagore was born in 1840 and entered at the age of nine years the College of Calcutta ; when he was fourteen years old he wrote a little book in Bengali, bearing the title of "Bhugol-o-itihas-gaita Britanto" which he published in 1857. He began to study music in his 17th year. He had several masters of ancient music, the first of whom was a savant, then Ostad Lukhminarain and Mohun Goswami. At that time he translated into Bengali the Drama of Kalidasa "Malavika and Agnimitra." Henceforth he studied European music ; a German master taught him to play the painoforte, and he collected as many books, treating on Indian and foreign music, as he was able. In 1871 he founded in Calcutta the Musical School of Bengal, and began to publish several works on the subject in which instruction is imparted there, defraying all the expenses of the school and paying the salaries of the masters The Rajah Sourindro pays also the salary of the music master who teaches in the Normal School of Calcutta. In order to spread a knowledge of Indian music in foreign countries, he prodigally sent his publications, and precious collections of musical instruments out of India. One of these collections he presented to king Victor Emanuel who placed it into the Kircherian museum of Rome. The Tagore family had already before gifted Indian literature with several illustrious authors ; Rajah Sourindro also wished to rival his predecessors and to excel their splendor ; his own mother, still living, is the authoress of a Bengali book. A musician of the greatest authority in India, esteemed by strangers, orthodox and most religious, Sourindro Mohun Tagore published many works in Bengali, in English, in Sanskrit, and in Hindi.

The Dictionary also includes the lives of Dr. Rajendralala Mitra and Babu Ramdas Sen. India ought to feel honored by the honor thus done to her deserving sons.

A BURRISAL correspondent thus writes : "We are just now without a Judge, as the new Judge from Noakhalli has not yet joined. The Commissioner is here on circuit. Mr. Campbell has been made to apologize to the District Superintendent of Police, Mr. Meares, because he failed to prove that Mr. Meares had instigated the Head Constable to complain against him. This has given great offence to all the Civilians as the District Superintendent is an *Uncovenanted* officer."

WE TAKE from the last number of the journal of the National Indian Association the following Indian intelligence :

Mr. Upendra Krishna Dutt (Univ. College and private study) has passed in the First Division of the Second B.Sc. Examination of the University of London.

Mr. E. Patell has passed the L.S A. Examination London.

Mr. Rahim Buksch passed some months ago the Primary Examination of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Mr. R. D. Phookan, Mr. N. F. Bhandara and Mr. N. L. Ghosh have passed the Examination, in Roman Law held at the Inns of Court last term.

Mr. Ibrahim Ahmed has passed the Preliminary Examination for the Bar and has been admitted as a student of the Inner Temple.

WE HAVE received from the Press Commissioner a copy of the Regulations relating to the Indian Civil Service Examination, June 1881. The following condition is added to the Regulations that "in the event of the candidates being appointed to the Service, a clause will be introduced into their Covenants, by which they will bind themselves to agree to such Regulations for the provision of pensions for their families as may be approved by the Secretary of State for India in Council."

THE BOMBAY GUARDIAN says : "Polo has another victim. An officer at Rawalpindi was ridden over by two others, and soon died of the injuries received. Yet those who delight in this game do not consider that the occasional sacrifice of a valuable life is too dear a price for the excitement they find in it." And yet Englishmen object to the Indian Car festival, which is observed solely on religious grounds.

WE ARE glad to observe that Mr. Abdul Rahaman, the new Barrister, has been sworn in as a member of the High Court Bar. He is a young man of great intelligence and promise. He comes from a highly respectable family of Furreedpore. We have read with great pleasure his address at the Madrassa.

FRIDAY, 24TH DECEMBER.

THE STATESMAN deserves the thanks of the public for exposing the high-handed way in which subscriptions are collected in the Mofussil by local officers :

A notice was sent round to the native gentry in the neighbourhood by the Assistant Magistrate of Nattore, to the following effect :—A special meeting of the leading gentry in the neighbourhood of Nattore, in aid of the funds for the Rajshahye College building, will be held here by the Magistrate of the district at 4 P. M., Thursday, the 19th August 1880. You are specially requested to attend. Sd. G. K. Lyon, Assistant Magistrate.

Kumar Jogendranath Rai Bahadur of Nattore failed to attend the meeting after receiving the summons. He was accordingly served with the following significant communication :

"The Magistrate was here on the 19th instant. He held the meeting in aid of the funds of the college building extension fund. He was greatly displeased to find you neither present personally, nor represented, though you had been specially invited to attend. The purpose of the meeting was one exclusively for the benefit of your countrymen. I am, therefore, to request you to send the proper amount of your subscription to the fund There is still an amount of Rs. 8,000 to be raised. (Sd.) GRISH CHUNDER SARKAR, *Sub-Deputy Magistrate*, 1st *September*, 1880.

The zemindar, who does not yield to this sort of gentle pressure, not unfrequently finds himself in the black book of the local officers, and has to pay for his recusancy in diverse ways

IT IS reported that the Fakir, who had been inciting the Sonthals to political mischief, has been arrested by the Police at Hazaribag on a charge of disseminating sedition. His name is Babaji.

THE SONTHAL DISTRICTS, we are glad to learn, are quiet, but it is feared that an outbreak will take place on the date of their great festival between this and the 2nd February. In the meantime the Government are taking measures to meet the emergency. Native troops are being carefully distributed throughout the districts, so that when the time arrives, there will be a display of force which, it is to be hoped, will prevent the threatened outbreak.

WE ARE glad to observe that Mr. Kashinath Telang has been appointed to the Government Law Lectureship, Bombay.

WE ARE exceedingly sorry to record the demise for the third time of the *Bombay Review*. It was an honest, bold paper, always written with vigour and independence. It will be sadly missed in the ranks of Indian journalism. We sincerely hope that our contemporary will Phœnix-like again spring into life from his ashes.

WE HAVE received the following messages from the Press Commissioner :

Calcutta, December 24th.—There is no truth in the report of the resignation of His Excellency the Viceroy.

24th.—Telegram from Kandahar, dated December 23rd states :—All quiet in Kandahar and neighbourhood. On 22nd December a parade was held of all the troops in the garrison except the Kohkaran. Brigade-General Hume, addressing Commanding Officers of brigades, regiments and batteries, expressed himself much pleased with the appearance of the force. Taj Muhammad Khan, Seistani, left Kandahar to-day for Garmsir. Muhammad Aslam Khan who has been creating some disturbance in the Upper Valley of the Arghandab, has been compelled by Muhammad Sadik Khan, Governor of Kelat-i-Ghilzai, to make his submission. News from Herat, dated 3rd December, represents the city as much unsettled, and preparations being made for a seige. Ayub, hearing that Yalantash Khan and the Jamshidis were about to join Taemuni in attacking Herat sent a small body of troops of Khusck under command of Muhammad Hassan Khan, General Muhammad Jan Khan, and the two brothers of Khan Agha ; thereupon Yalantash Khan fled and the Jamshidis submitted.

SATURDAY, 25TH DECEMBER.

THE PIONEER had given out that a hundred soldiers of the Puttialla State, having been refused increase of pay on their return from Affghanstan had given up service. The Secretary to the Pattialla Council of Regency flatly contradicts this statement.

WE ARE exceedingly sorry to hear the death of Maharaja Sir Jey Prokash Sing, K. C. S. I., of Deo in Behar. He greatly distinguished himself by his loyal services during the Mutiny, and was rewarded with a jaghir worth Rs. 10,000 a year, and with the Knighthood of the Star of India. He was an open-handed man, and much noted for his piety and liberality. His son is an intelligent and liberal-minded young man.

WE NOTICED last week the cow-killing case of Bhaugulpore, and the arbitrary order of the Assistant Magistrate to bind all the Hindu zemindars of the district to keep the peace without condescending to take evidence. We stated that the aggrieved would appeal to the High Court. The *Behar Herald* says that the High Court has declined to interfere on the technical ground that the sentence has expired. We hope they will now go up to Government.

WE HAVE much pleasure in noticing the last annual distribution of prizes to the pupils of Mr. Vallis's School. The result of the examination, we are informed, were very satisfactory. Father Nieberding, who presided on the occasion, congratulated Mr. Vallis on the success of his institution. Some of our readers may recognize in Mr. Vallis their good old tutor in the Oriental Seminary.

BABU DOORGA CHURN GUPTA of the Gupta Press has taken time by the forelock and is the first in the field with his new Bengali Panjika for the year 1288, which will commence on the 12th April next. It is like its predecessors a neat handy publication giving the fullest information on every subject for which a Hindu refers to an Almanack or Punjika.

THE FIRST SITTING of the Calcutta Session of the Imperial Legislative Council was held at Government House on last Thursday. The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes, Law Member, presided. The Council had a heavy budget of Bills and Reports to dispose of. There were the Wills and Probates Bill, the Pegu Navigation Bill, the Madras Coroner Bill, the Burma Forest Bill, Fairways Obstructions Bill, Taj Mahal Pension Bill, Madras Canal Companies Bill, all which were in due course disposed of by leave being given to introduce some of them and by the reference of the others to Select Committees. Some members were added to existing Select Committees on certain Bills.

WE ARE GLAD to notice the return to Calcutta of Moulvi Abul Fazl M. Abdur Rahman M. R. A. S. F. R. C. I., Barrister-at Law, eldest son of the Nawab Abdool Luteef, Khan Bahadur, after a sojourn of about four years in Europe. We understand that besides reading for the English Bar at the Inner Temple, Mr. Abdur Rahman has gone through a regular course of practical studies in the chambers of two eminent lawyers under the auspices of Sir James (now Mr. Justice,) Stephen, Q C. and Sir Patrick Colquhoun Q C. L. L. D., Benchers of the Inner Temple. During the last four months or so, Mr. Abdur Rahman travelled on the Continent. At the request of some distinguished English and Belgian friends he consented to represent British India at the "*Congres International de'l enseignement.*" (International Congress on education) held at Brussels on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Belgian independence. We also learn that about the end of August, Mr. Abdur Rahman attended the International Conference at the Federal Palace, Berne, held by the Association for the Reform and Codification of the Law of Nations, of which he is a member. We wish our young countryman every success in life.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week :

London December 19.—Ten thousand pounds have been subscribed towards the fund for defraying the expenses of Mr. Parnell's defence. The First Battalion 20th Regiment has been ordered to Ireland. Government has thanked Admiral Seymour for his services in connexion with the naval demonstration before Dulcigno. It stated that Colonel St. John, Royal Engineers, is to be appointed a Knight Commander of the Star of India. The Dutch are sending an expedition to the Arctic regions.

21.—An official despatch has been received from Sir George Colley, dated Capetown 19th December, stating that 5000 Boers have taken possession of Heidelberg without violence, and established a Republican Government there. M. Kruger has been elected President of the Republic. Communication with Pretoria is cut off. The despatch adds that all available troops are being hurried forward and that Sir George himself was about to start for the scene of action.

21.—The Second Battalion Grenadier Guards and 300 London constables are going to Ireland. The General Post Office are prepared to establish telephones. Advices have been received that the Russian troops on the 9th of December stormed Karyz and routed the Tekkes. New Turkomans are advancing with artillery, but have no aid from the Tekkes.

22.—A frightful Railway accident has occurred at Leeds, in which upwards of 50 passengers were killed and wounded. The First Battalion sixtieth rifles is going to Ireland instead of the 97th which regiment has been ordered to proceed to Natal at once. The county of Limerick has been proclaimed as being in a disturbed condition.

23.—All the Powers have accepted the proposal made by England for arbitration regarding the final settlement of the Greek frontier. The Under Secretary of the Home Department has resigned in consequence of ill-health. The *Times* to-day announces that the Marquis of Ripon has resigned his appointment as Viceroy of India.

23.—The *Times* strongly advocates the appointment of Lord Dufferin as successor to the Marquis of Ripon. The latest advices from the Cape state that the Colonel Baker has completely defeated the Pondimese Chief, Umhlonhlo, inflicting a loss of 300 men, whilst the Colonial loss amounted to 14 killed and wounded Umhlonhlo himself has succeeded in escaping The rebellion amongst the Boers is extending. They have attacked the town of Potchefstrom. Details, however, are wanting.

London, December 23 (*Afternoon*) A telegram from Durban of to day's date states that it is reported that the Boers have defeated a force of British troops at Middlbory, and that the British lost two hundred in killed and prisoners The latest news from Ireland states that a cargo of arms had been seized at the mouth of the River Shannon and that the whole district is excited Obituary.—George Eliot, the authoress.

Washington December 15.—The Agricultural Bureau's monthly report states that the average condition of the ten cotton States has declined.

Athens, December 18.—The Greek Government has declined to open any further negotiations with Turkey in reference to the frontier. England has proposed an arbitration by the Powers in final settlement of the question,

22.—The President of the Greek Ministry has sent a circular to the representatives of the Greek Government abroad,

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instructing them to decline European arbitration, if offered.

Teheran December 18.—Russian troops have been sent to assist the Persians against the Khurds

London 24 —Lord Carnarvon has written a letter to Mr Bright condemning the speech he made on the 16th November last on Irish affairs, as unbecoming a Cabinet Minister, and deploring his attacks on landlords and preference for theoretical reforms over the restoration of law and order in Ireland

25—An official despatch has been received from Natal, stating that the head-quaters of the 94th Rigiment, whilst marching on Pretoria, were overwhelmed by a force of Boers, who inflicted a loss on our men of 120 killed and wounded, and took the rest of the Regiment prisoners The Regimental Colo r were saved Lieutenant H A C Harrison was killed Major Philip Robert Anstruther, Captain Stanford Nairne, and Lieutenant James Macswiney were severely wounded Sir George Colley expresses an earnest desire for Cavalry rein forcements

BABU BENODE BEHARI BANERJEE, M. A. late a Lecturer at the Jaypore College and now a Translator of the High Court, is first in the field with "Students' Key to the Entrance Course for 1881." It contains copious etymological, explanatory and grammatical notes, explanations of all phrases occuring in the text and of others commonly in use, with a map of Bolaklava and appendices containing questions founded on the text and grammatical questions taken from standard works on grammar and formed on the model of University questions to test the students' acquirements in English. The Key will prove useful to those, for whom it is intended, but we deprecate publications of this kind as they only tend to help cram.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals :—1. General Report of Public Instruction in Bengal for 1879-80. 2. Report on the Railway-Borne Trade of the N. W. Provinces for 1879-80. 3. Report of Public Instruction in the N. W. Provinces and Oudh for 1879-80. 4. Returns of the Railway-borne traffic of the N. W. Provinces and Oudh during the quarter ending 30th June 1880. 5. Students' Key to the Entrance Course for 1881. By Benode Behari Banerjee, M. A. 6. An address delivered by Syud Abdur Rahaman F. R. S., F. R. C. I. M. R. H. S. Barrister-at-Law at the Madrassa Literary Club, Calcutta. 7. Annual Report of the Baksha Government Aided Vernacular School for 1879. 8. The Suddarshana Chintanika or Studies in Indian Philosophy Vol. 4, No. 10 October 1880. 9. Prachin Puran Sungraha, Huribungsa Purba, published and distributed gratis by Protab Chunder Roy. 10. Life of Mohamed Mohisin in Bengali by Promutha Nath Mitter (translated from the English lecture of Babu Mohender Chunder Mitter). 11. Gupta Press Panjika for the Bengali year 1288. 12. Religious controversy in Bengali (containing criticisms on the Bible) Vol. I Nos. 1 and 2, published by the Hindu Dhurma Prodipaduk Society of Kalighat. 13. Paricharika, a Bengali monthly Vol. III No. 8. 14. Adurini—ditto, Vol. No. I.

A CORRESPONDENT states that the next Saraswati Puja or pen-and-ink festival falls on the fourth day of the ensuing Honor and M. A. Examination in the Calcutta University, which commences on the 31st January next, and justly says that unless that day be changed, it will be a great hardship to the Hindu examinees. We hope the Syndicate of the University will make the needful change.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1880.

LORD RIPON.

IT affords us not a little pleasure to notice that our anticipation in our last issue regarding the improvement in the health of Lord Ripon has been confirmed by the news of the week. His Lordship is steadily improving, and the daily bulletins have been discontinued. Dr. Payne has returned from Allahabad. The Vice-regal party, as we stated last week, it is believed, will come down to Calcutta in the first week of January.

Whilst this news has been received with universal rejoicing throughout the country, the pleasure was attended with no little pain by the announcement in the London *Times* that His Lordship has resigned the Viceroyalty of India. Happily this telegram has been authoritatively contradicted by the Press Commissioner. A greater calamity could not have befallen India than the early retirement of Lord Ripon. The bulk of our countrymen have not even seen His Lordship, but they have imbibed a respect and sympathy for him, which few of his predecessors had commanded within the first six months of their arrival in India. Circumstances compelled His Lordship to take charge of his exalted office at Simla, instead of at the capital, contrary to custom and precedent, and there he was shut up for five months, seeing only his colleagues, secretaries, and a few other officials, for the most part saturated with the North-West leaven, but His Lordship did not allow his judgment to be warped by his surroundings. One of the chief objects of Mr. Gladstone in asking Lord Ripon to come out to India was to bring the Affghan War to a close and to give a moral tone to the administration of this country. Lord Ripon has fulfilled both these objects within his six months' stay in India. The first question that pressed upon His Lordship's attention was the evacuation of Kabul, and His Lordship did not hesitate to decide in the affirmative. Immediately after the evacuation of Kabul occurred the Kandahar disaster, which caused something like a panic both in India and in England, but thanks to the promptitude, skill, and prowess of General Roberts the honor of British arms was speedily avenged. It is still an open question whether Kandahar will be permanently occupied by our troops or not, but it is said that Lord Ripon has given his adhesion to the annexation party. We do not know how far this statement is true nor have we seen the grounds upon which His Lordship's opinion is based. As regards the other point, the infusion of a moral tone into the administration of India, there cannot be any doubt about it. Lord Ripon may not be a brilliant man, but he is universally believed to be a good, honest, conscientious man, and his moral qualities, we hear on all sides, have been conspicuous in all his acts and decisions since his assumption of the Viceroyalty of India. He is always anxious to do justice, without distinction of class, creed, or color, and this distinguishing trait in his character has naturally influenced his colleagues and subordinates. He came to the gaze of the public in course of his Vice-regal tour, and wherever he went he made a most favourable impression. Although in his public utterances His Lordship did not commit himself in any way on important questions, he showed a moderation, a spirit of conciliation, a breadth of mind, and a just appreciation of the needs and circumstances of India, which elicited the admiration of all sections of the Indian community. Great hopes are entertained of him, and we trust we may be permitted to realize them. After many a year we have had the good fortune of receiving a Viceroy of the Canning mould, and we earnestly hope and pray that Destiny will not deprive us of his beneficent sway.

We must confess that from the day we had heard of Lord Ripon's serious illness we had apprehended that perhaps his Lordship would not stay here long, and our apprehension was not wholly without foundation. We could not forget that the Marchioness was opposed to his Lordship's acceptance of the Viceroyalty of India, it was said at the time that Mr. Gladstone and Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress had pressed him to take it, though it was whispered that his Lordship himself had a strong wish to see the "Gorgeous East" in which he took a lively interest. He is not a pauper Lord, he has not come out for the sake of money, his sole object was to serve his Queen and country, his appointment was bitterly criticized by his Protestant countrymen, but he has manfully done his duty, and from the experience he has had, though brief, we hope he is satisfied that the people, whom he has come to rule, are not undeserving of his attention and sympathy. They have inherited a past, of which any nation may well feel proud; though fallen from their primeval grandeur and greatness, they are not past redemption, they are reviving under the vivifying influence of British rule, and the British statesman, who will contribute to the sum of their progress and happiness, will vindicate himself and his country in the eyes of both Man and God. Lord Ripon has this glorious mission before him, and may the Almighty Disposer of all good give him health and strength to fulfil it!

THE REPORT OF THE RENT-LAW COMMISSION.

XXII.

THE Rent Commission have greatly complicated the question of enhancement of rent. In the first place they propose that in any case in which tenures and under-tenures may be liable to enhancement it may be enhanced up to the limit of the customary rate payable by persons holding similar tenures or undertenures in the vicinity, or, where no such customary rate exists, up to such limit as to the Court shall appear fair and equitable but so that the profit of the tenure-holder or undertenure-holder shall not (in the absence of certain special circumstances) exceed thirty per centum of the balance, which may remain after deducting from the gross rents payable to him the expenses of collecting such rents. With regard to *jangalburi* holdings they suggest that, when more than one hundred bighas of land have been demised for reclamation purposes, more than half being at the time unreclaimed, and the whole having been subsequently reclaimed, the rent of the tenant may not be enhanced so as to leave him a profit of less than twenty per cent. of the net balance abovementioned, and the Court may allow him such profit in excess of twenty per cent. as to it appears fair and equitable. They further recommend that, in the absence of an express contract to the contrary, every tenure-holder and under-tenure-holder shall be liable to pay additional rent for land gained by alluvion, and shall be entitled to abatement of rent for land lost by diluvion. The above rules are quite arbitrary. There is no reason why one class of tenure-holders should be allowed 30 per cent. profit and another class 20 per cent. The settlement of rent between the superior landlord and the tenure-holder ought to be left to mutual agreement, and in case of dispute the rule contained in Section 8, Regulation V. of 1812, which authorizes ten per cent. allowance to the tenure-holder, ought to apply. If a proprietor in a permanently settled district did not accept the settlement, he was declared entitled to only 10 per cent. *malikana*. The same allowance is given to any recusant proprietor in a temporarily settled district. Why should a tenure-holder be treated exceptionally? We are sorry to observe that the Government of Bengal in its letter to the British Indian Association has not touched upon this point. Perhaps the Lieutenant-Governor does not accept the principle recommended by the Rent Commission on this point.

With regard to grounds of enhancement the Commission have retained the existing law with some modifications, which we fear will tend to complicate matters. The grounds of enhancement as modified by the Commission stand thus :

(1) that the rate of rent paid by such ryot is below the prevailing rate payable by the same class of ryots for land of a similar description and with similar advantages *in the vicinity*;

(2) that the quantity of land held by such ryot has been *shown* by measurement to be greater than the quantity for which rent has been previously paid by him;

(3) that the productive powers of the land held by such ryot *as compared with such powers at the time when the rent was fixed, or at any subsequent time,* have increased otherwise than by the agency or at the expense of the ryot *and from causes not merely temporary or casual*;

(4) that the *prices* of produce *in the locality, or at the usual markets, as compared with similar prices at the time when the rent was fixed or at any subsequent time,* have increased otherwise than by the agency or at the expense of the ryot, *and from causes not merely temporary or casual.*

The present law is already unworkable, and suits for enhancement of rent consequently come to a dead-lock. Grounds nos. 3 and 4 will require an amount of enquiry and information, which will by no means facilitate matters. The explanations and illustrations will aggravate the difficulty. If as the Lieutenant-Government proposes there should be a table of rates for different classes of land, enhancement ought to be allowed upon the first two grounds according to the table to be sanctioned by the Board. The last two grounds ought to be omitted. We wish the Lieutenant-Governor had also spoken out on this point also.

Then we do not think that the double machinery of the Collector and the Civil Court would be at all convenient or expeditious. The Commission have classified under two heads the landlords who shall be entitled to go to the Collector and the Civil Court respectively, *first*, landlords having a permanent transferable interest; *second*, landlords having a farming or lease-hold interest in the lands of which the rents are payable to them. The Commission remark;

"Regarding the Collector's tribunal as an increased facility for enhancement, we have thought it inexpedient to afford this increased facility to landlords of the second class in every case. We have accordingly allowed landlords of the first class only to go to the Collector with cases depending upon the *first* and *second* grounds of enhancement, while we have left the Civil Court open to both classes for these cases. The landlord of the first class may go to either tribunal on the *third* ground of enhancement, but the landlord of the second class, the mere farmer or lease-holder, though the Civil Court is open to him in all cases, may not call in the agency of the Revenue Authorities, unless a period of not less than ten years of his interest remains unexpired. Upon the *fourth* ground the Civil Court is open to neither class of landlords; but he, whose interest is permanent and transferable, may always go to the Collector, while the farmer or lease-holder may not proceed before this Officer or in other words may not enhance rents at all upon this ground unless a period of not less than ten years of his interest is unexpired."

As the fiscal agency will be charged with the preparation of tables of rates, we think it would be preferable if the trial of suits for enhancement of rent were left to the Revenue Courts. Their practical knowledge will be of material help to them in deciding questions connected with the enhancement of rent. The double machinery recommended by the Commission will make confusion worse confounded.

DR. HUNTER ON INDIA AGAIN.

I.

DR. W. W. HUNTER has been again lecturing about India. This time his text is the poverty of India. But he is strangely inconsistent in his utterances. In discussing the financial condition of India last season he had painted in glowing colors the prosperous condition of the people of India, the elasticity of its resources, and the solvency of its exchequer. In his present lectures he is singing quite a new tune—he has now discovered that the people of India are very poor. He now says, "if the British nation had realized the poverty of India, it would have refrained from several acts which now form standing reproaches against England in the Native Press." This is the language of bare truth, and we wish he had remembered it when he championed the Government of India against the attacks of Mr. Hyndman. But Dr. Hunter has not evidentlyadvanced this truth without a design. Like most modern Indian Civilians he is not a friend of the Permanent Settlement of Bengal, and in his first lecture at Edinburgh he has done his best to run it down. In the first place he indirectly praises the periodic land settlement of Government, and in the second place he puts Bengal in the category of Ireland, though there is no true analogy between the two countries. He thus describes the condition of Bengal at the time of the Permanent Settlement: "In 1789 the Governor-General declared, after three years' vigilant inquiry, that one-third of Bengal lay unoccupied. Only the best lands in a village were cultivated, and the landholders, where they existed, had to treat their peasantry well; for the competition was among the proprietors for tenants, and not among the tenants for land. Under such conditions, the means of existence were easily raised, and the people had only to be protected from plunder and from the sword in order to prosper." This statement cannot be received without qualification. It is true that one-third of Bengal was then covered with jungle, and that it was the land, which then sought the tenant, and not the tenant, who sought the land. But the ryots were by no means prosperous. They were then obliged to surrender to the zemindar half the crops as rent, which left them little for maintenance and cultivation. For the other half again they had not good markets. Not thirty years ago the ryot had secured two meals a day. If the ryots then required protection from plunder, they had not much left to be plundered. Dr. Hunter next remarks: "I have just mentioned that a century ago one-third of Bengal lay unoccupied; but since then the population of Bengal has increased, not by one-third, but by three-fold; and the land which had to feed 21 millions in 1780 has in 1880 to feed over 63 millions of mouths. After a minute comparison of the condition of the peasant in our own times with the facts disclosed in the old manuscript records, I am compelled to the conclusion that throughout large areas the struggle for life is harder than it was when the country passed into our hands; for not only have the British districts to support a much denser population than they had a century ago, but they have to feed a population much more than twice as dense as that in the native States at the present day." This sort of general statement is misleading and only tends to do mischief. It is quite true that the "struggle for life" is now harder than it was when the English first took possession of the country; this remark applies to the non-permanently settled districts of Bengal, to the middle classes with fixed incomes throughout, the country, but not to the agricultural population of Bengal Proper. Here the agriculturists according to official accounts, not to quote other testimony, are now far better off than they were even thirty years ago. It is the poor middle class, the *bhodrolokes*, who cannot make the two ends meet. It has become a common saying that the *chasas* and artizans, even day-laborers, are far better off than the *bhodrolokes* or the gentleman class. Throughout Bengal labour has become very dear, and domestic servants can be obtained with difficulty. This fact is not consistent with Dr. Hunter's statement that the "struggle for life," is hard among the agricultural and laboring population of Bengal. Dr. Hunter then as usual with him confounds Bengal with the Indian Continent to shew its land settlement to disadvantage in the general summing-up. Thus he remarks: "We see, therefore, in British India a dense population of husbandmen—a population far denser than that of Ireland, but one which has only a single means of subsistence, the land; while the English population have a hundred manufactures and great industries. . . . The practical result to the peasant is two-fold: he gets a smaller return from the land for his labour, and he has to pay away a larger proportion of that smaller return to his landlord; for, with the increase of population, the peasantry had to fall back on inferior or less favourably situate soils." Now, this is not true of Bengal. The newly reclaimed lands are not "inferior soil," their fertility is wonderful, and the prosperity of the ryots inhabiting these lands is remarkable. Does the "larger proportion of the smaller return" of the ryot in Bengal go to the landlord?—it certainly goes to the state landlord in other parts of the country. As we have said above at the time of the Permanent Settlement the proportion was half and half, in highly assessed parts it is now one-third, in Northern and Eastern Bengal, which has for the most part been reclaimed from the jungle, it is one-fourth, one-eighth, in not a few places, not more than one-sixteenth for the landlord. In the face of these facts let the reader judge the truth of the following remarks of Dr. Hunter. He says: "As the peasantry in Bengal have been forced back upon the inferior lands, the natural rent of all the other lands has risen. The enhancement of rent had meanwhile grown into the great problem of the day, and restraints upon enhancement form the most important features of the Land Code of 1859. But, in spite of the provisions of that Code, the increase of the people and the natural operation of economic laws have led to a still further rise in rent. The peasantry resisted by every legal means, and in some parts combined to ruin the landlords by refusing to pay rent at all. Their attitude was in certain respects similar to the position of the Irish peasantry at this moment. The Indian husbandman has, however, a power of pacific combination and of patient, passive resistance which the Irish cotters have not yet developed. The most peaceful district of Bengal, Pubna, was for some time in a state of agrarian revolt." Now, it was not the reclamation of the jungle lands which raised the rent of old lands. If any thing, this extension of cultivation ought to have lowered the rent according to the well-understood laws of political economy, but the rent rose because there was a rise in the price of produce; in days gone by the landlord did not seek enhancement of rent, because he could not suck blood out of stones, he demanded an increase when the ryot was in a position to pay it. As for the agrarian revolt in Pubna Dr. Hunter ought to have known that it was due to the crusade of Sir George Campbell against the zemindars; it subsided the moment he left the country. It is true that the spirit which he so mischievously evoked has not passed away, but it is no indication of the "poverty" of the agricultural population of East Bengal. The ryots did not say, "we are as badly off as we can be, and it is better for us to sell our last cow to fight you in the courts than to pay your rent." The ryots in East Bengal are not "badly off." On the contrary Dr. Hunter himself admits immediately below: "I have tried to look with my own eyes into the condition of the tillers of the soil in nearly every country of Europe, from Norway to the Black Sea; *but I know of no peasantry so well off as the husbandmen in Eastern Bengal* and some other parts of India." The italics are ours. With what consistency does Dr. Hunter say that the ryots of Pubna resisted payment of rent because they were "badly off." They did so, because encouraged by Government they thought they would be able to cheat their landlords. But a change in the personnel of the Government cured them of this idea. Dr. Hunter then strongly backs the Rent Commission in their confiscatory and revolutionary ideas. We will notice this part of his lecture hereafter. But we submit that the tenantry in the periodically settled districts are really "badly off" and that some effective measures ought to be taken to improve their position and prospects. And in our humble opinion the only remedy is the extension of the much abused Permanent Settlement of the land revenue. Dr. Hunter says: "Ladies and gentlemen, you now know what I mean by the poverty of the Indian people. More food is raised from the land than ever was raised before, but the population has increased at a more rapid rate than the food supply. We are compelled to stand by and watch the pitiless operation of economic laws whose force no man can stay. Those laws decree that a population of small husbandmen, which marries and multiplies irrespective of the means of subsistence, shall suffer a constantly increasing struggle for existence." But it is in the power of the Government to remedy this state of things in those provinces in which it is the landlord, but it wont do any thing of the kind. Here is the testimony of no less an authority than Mr. Aukland Colvin on the working of the temporary settlement in Northern India:

"In 1874, twenty-six years will have elapsed from the date on which the two first of the districts now comprised in the N. W. Provinces were placed in the hands of a settlement officer. Others were begun twelve years ago, and are not yet even sanctioned; one of these is not yet completed. These facts are significant to those who know what the settlement of a district means; the value of the property depreciated until the exact amount of the new assessment is declared, credit affected, heart-burning and irritation between landlord and tenant, suspicion of the intentions of the Government, a host of official underlings scattered broadcast over the vexed villages. Nothing can equal the injury inflicted by a slow, uncertain settlement, dragging its length along, obstructed by conflicting orders, and harassed by successive administrations, and finally threatened with annihilation at the moment when it seems to have nearly finished its course. Little wonder that we hear of the land needing rest!" Referring to the Bombay Presidency Mr. Dacosta writes: "The enhancements made in the land-tax have been productive of results still more unsatisfactory. The amount of interference with the cultivators which the revision of settlements necessitates, may be imagined from the fact that 1,500,000, 2,000,000, acres of land are annually measured in the presidency by revenue officials, who have moreover, to classify them for taxation, according to their degree of productiveness. When lands, upon examination, are found to have been made by means of manuring and irrigation, capable of yielding increased produce, they are subjected to enhanced assessments, which might entirely absorb the fruit of the capital and labour expended in their improvement. This will at once account for the low state of agriculture and the destitute condition of the Indian peasantry, wherever the vicious system of periodical revisions of the land-tax obtains, the evil being greatest where the revisions recur with greatest frequency.

Regarding the Madras Presidency Mr. Phillips, who lately wrote about the land settlement there, says:

"Why is it that at least 50 per cent, of the ryots in Madras are in debt, some of them so hopelessly that they can never retrieve themselves? Why is it that half the total number of ryots in the Madras Presidency pay less than Rupees 10 annually as land revenue to Government? None of these latter can live entirely on their lands, and the majority have to labour for others for at least six months in the year. Apathy and want of enterprise are not sufficient in themselves to cause such effects. The facilities for acquiring land in Madras are great, and yet the peasantry are in a most depressed condition."

He thus compares Bengal and Madras:

How is it that during the present year there has been no declared famine in Bengal? The price of food grains has in certain districts been higher than anything known in 1873-4, in Chittagong and parts of Eastern Bengal rice has at times been absolutely unprocurable. The same may be said of Dinagepore and Darjeeling. Newspaper correspondents have been every where telling the same tale. In the Patna divi-

sion, especially Sarun, there is serious scarcity : much distress prevails in Beerbhoom, Jessore and other districts. Rice has been selling as high as three and four seers the rupee. Rupees five and Rupees six per maund has been an ordinary price. The labouring classes are suffering much. All classes have more or less been obliged to exercise some stint and privation. But still matters have not assumed such serious proportions as to call for any general action on the part of the Government. Though we have our suspicions that in certain districts (We will specify for example, Sarun, Patna, Dacca, Mymensingh and Pooree) the Mortuary Returns will tell their own tale, still it may be said that as yet there has been no absolute necessity to declare a famine. The North-West Provinces have collapsed under similarly high prices. The Mortuary Returns tell their own damning tale and have proved that after all the Statesman's indignant Philippics were not mere transcendental moonshine. But Bengal still breasts the tide. Last year (1877) there was a greater or less failure of the summer crops in the North-Western Provinces. The district of Sarun, which lies to the west of Gunduck river, belongs geographically to the North-Western Provinces, though it is administered by the Government of Bengal, The Goruckpore district, which belongs to the North-Western Provinces, adjoins the district of Sarun. In parts of Sarun the summer crops failed to the same extent as in Goruckpore. In Goruckpore there was actual famine ; in Sarun merely distress, though such distress was considerable. The same may be said of the adjoining districts of Ghazeepore (North-West Provinces) and Shahabad (Bengal).

So much for the condition of the peasantry under the periodic and permanent settlement. Then the former is invariably attended with loss of revenue in bad years. How is the revenue affected in permanently settled Bengal ? We give the following testimony of three successive Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal :

"The revenue of the permanently settled estates in Bengal has for years been realized with great punctuality. Losses sometimes occur through famine, epidemics, the devastations of cyclones, and other calamities of seasons; but under the conditions of the Settlement, no such pleas can be urged as excuses for non-payment ; and as a rule, the large present excess of the annual rental over the Government demand, enable the present holders to meet that demand even in the most disastrous years."— Sir G. Campbell's Administration Report for 1872-73.

"The dificiency of the collections consequent on the famine was very small, and such suspensions of revenue as were granted were given as a reward for exceptional exertions in relieving distress. The Result is considered by the Local Government (Sir R. Temple) as creditable to the working of the Permanent Settlement ."—Moral and Material Condition of India for 1873-74.

"I have just returned from visiting the Eastern Districts, and I may say, on this occasion, when my administration is only at the commencement, what I could not well say at a latter period, without seeming to seek credit for the Government of which I am the head. Great as was the progress which I knew had been made in the position of the cultivating classes, I was quite unprepared to find them occupying a position so different from that which I remembered them to occupy when I first came to the country. They were then poor and oppressed, with little incentive to increase the productive powers of the soil. I find them now as prosperous, as independent, and as comfortable as the peasantry, I believe, of any country in the world ; well fed, well clothed, free to enjoy the full benefit of their own labours, and to hold their own and obtain prompt redress for any wrong."—Sir Ashley Eden's Speech in 1877.

And yet Dr. Hunter solemnly tells the people of England that Bengal is as bad as Ireland, and that therefore a revolution is needed in Bengal, while he does not say a syllable for the improvement of the condition of the peasantry in the Government estates in periodically settled districts, because we surmise any suggestion in that respect would affect the credit and revenues of Government !

THE COTTON DUTIES.

WE have already expressed our opinion that Major Evelyn Baring, the new Finance Minister, should seriously consider the question whether the cotton duties ought not to be re-imposed as they existed two years ago. The remission of duty on goods containing no finer yarn than 30's. under the notification of March 1879 has entailed the loss of a large amount of revenue. Nor is the present loss the only evil that is likely to result from that measure. We have shown in a recent issue that Sir John Strachey has cleverly made the limit of exemption so liberal that the Lancashire manufacturers can, by a little adaptation, bring the bulk of their goods within it. In the course of a short time the revenue from the existing cotton duties will in all probability be reduced to such a trifling amount that it would not be worth the while of Government to maintain them ; and when the cotton duties have been abandoned, the entire repeal of customs duties would only be a question of time. A considerable hole has been made in the customs revenue during the last 3 years ; and this hole will continue to widen if the notification of March 1879 be not withdrawn. Thus the prospect before the Indian tax-payer is serious. If the customs revenue ceased to exist, the Government will have to develop further the unpopular, irritating and demoralizing system of direct taxation in order to fill the void thereby caused.

Even if the notification of March 1879 does not ultimately lead to this lamentable result, there are other considerations which make its withdrawal desirable. Sir Ashley Eden, in reviewing the Administration Report of the Calcutta Customs House for 1879-80, has stated in plain terms that " the present system is one which it is practically impossible to work with fairness, and it has certainly not fulfilled the declared expectation of its authors." We admire His Honor's boldness and plainness. The outspoken Resolution of the Bengal Government on the Report referred to above says :—

While the remission of duty under the notification of March 1879 has greatly stimulated the manufacture of certain classes of goods in England for the Indian market, it does not appear that the increased importation of the past year was in excess of the demand. The fact that there was an actual reduction in the despatches from Calcutta to the North-Western Provinces (owing to the preference given by dealers in Northern India to the Bombay market from which Port goods could be placed cheaper in the North-Western Provinces than from Bengal) further shows that the imports of the year were mainly intended to meet the demand of Bengal alone. The Collector's remarks on the manner in which the notification above alluded to, has affected the Imperial revenue the importer, the consumer, and the local trade in cotton goods are, the Lieutenant-Governor understands, fully borne out by the facts. The Government has lost in Bengal 13½ lacs of rupees revenue during the year, and will lose more in future years, as the trade adjusts itself to its new conditions. Importers and manufacturers have had to undergo much inconvenience and some loss in adapting their arrangements to meet the altered requirements of the market. Consumers get cheaper, coarser, and possibly even a more durable article, but not precisely the article they prefer. The local manufactures have not been ousted from the market ; but Lancashire has been driven to manufacture a new class of goods which merely ousts another class of Lancashire goods falling under the dutiable standard. In fact, it does not appear that the sacrifices made by the Government of India in surrendering the duties of certain classes of piece-goods have been attained by any corresponding advantages, while, on the other hand, they have had in many ways a distinctly mischievous effect upon trade, and have caused precisely the confusion which was anticipated and foretold by many who were opposed to the surrender of this valuable source of revenue Any way, it can hardly be maintained by any one now that India herself has derived any benefit from the remission of these duties. The Board have in treating of this subject, referred to the action taken by the Collector and themselves in the matter of the confiscation of piece-goods declared duty-free, but found to contain yarn finer than 30s. which has lately excited so much discussion. The Lieutenant-Governor's views on this subject were sufficiently indicated in the Resolution issued on the Memorials presented to Government by two of the leading local firms in the piece-goods trade, and orders were conveyed to the Customs authorities for the purpose of remedying any hardship to which importers had been exposed by an unduly strict working of the notification. Whether any more general relief should be given to importers is a matter which rests with the Supreme Government. It seems to the Lieutenant Governor that the only satisfactory solution of the difficulty is to bring all classes of cotton goods on to the customs trade again at an equal but reduced rate of duty.

The value of these remarks cannot be overrated. The Government lost in Bengal alone 13½ lakhs of rupees during the past official year and will lose more in future years. But this sacrifice of revenue has not been attended with any corresponding advantages. It has neither benefited Manchester nor the people of India. Sir Ashley Eden positively declares that the remission of duty under the notification of 1879 has had in many ways a mischievous effect upon trade, and that the people of India have not derived any benefit from the measure. Manchester-men have never been tired of telling the world that they advocate the abolition of the cotton duties quite as much on behalf of the consumers in India as on their own behalf. It is a great pity that the deputation from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, which lately waited upon Major Evelyn Baring, did not condescend to explain what benefits the consumer in India has derived from the partial remission of the cotton duties already carried out. Sir John Strachey in his Financial Statement for 1879-80, gave us to understand that in dealing with the cotton duties, the Government of India had been solely guided by a regard to the true interests of the people of this country. It would have been well if Sir John had told us in what way has India gained by the sacrifices made by the Government in surrendering the duties of a large class of piece-goods. Of course, according to his theory, the measure *ought* to have benefited the people of the country; but then it has not produced the expected result. It is the plain duty of the Indian Legislature to legislate for the interests of the people of India, and not for the benefit of the cotton lords of Lancashire. This was the sound principle upon which Lord Northbrook's Tariff Act of 1875 was based. Although Lord Lytton and Sir John Strachey professed to have made this principle their guide in dealing with the cotton duties, their real motive was to secure the Lancashire vote for the Conservatives at the next general election, at the expense of the poor and dumb millions of this country. Instead of being guided by a regard to the interests of India, they subordinated them to those of England.

We earnestly hope Major Evelyn Baring will take Sir Ashley Eden's thoughtful remarks into careful consideration. The impossibility of practically working the present system with anything like fairness was acknowledged even by the deputation from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, which waited upon the new Finance Minister on the eve of his departure from England. Mr. Lord, as the spokesman of the Chamber, referring to the confiscation by the Calcutta Customs House of goods, containing yarn finer than 30s., stated that the true remedy for the evil, in the opinion of the Lancashire manufacturers, was the abolition of the cotton duties *in toto*, for which they had pleaded for the last 22 years. That Sir John Strachey, the author of the measure, does not agree with Sir Ashley Eden on this point is not at all surprising. It is a thousand pities that this question should have come up before Sir John, as President of the Council, for final disposal. The view he has taken of it is exactly what might have been foretold. He concurs with the Lieutenant-Governor in thinking that the confiscation by the Calcutta Customs authorities of goods containing yarn finer than 30s. has not been illegal ; but then he regrets that the discretion entrusted to them by the law has not been more judiciously exercised. Sir JohnStrachey holds that the presence in patches, of a certain quantity of yarn unmistakably finer than 30s. cannot be intentional ; and that though duty must be paid on any cloth which indisputably contains such yarn, even in small quantities, the customs authorities should make due allowance for the custom of the trade as to the numbering and testing of yarn.

We have already discussed the ruling of Sir John Strachy on this question and will not therefore repeat what we have said, we can only say that his argument is a piece of special pleading on behalf of Lancashire manufacturers only worthy of himself. But his decision will not remove the difficulties in the way of practically working the notification of March 1879, which have been so clearly pointed out by Sir Ashley Eden. The simple truth is, that in this matter fairness must be sacrificed and Manchester allowed to have her own way. If the Indian Customs authorities levy duty on goods which, to her thinking, come within the limit of exemption laid down by the Government of India, Manchester will raise a hue and cry ; and it requires no prophet to foretell that she will win.

On one point we regret we cannot agree with Sir Ashley Eden. He is of opinion that " the only satisfactory solution of the difficulty is to bring all classes of cotton goods on to the customs tariff again at an equal but reduced rate of duty." We concur with Mr. Inglis, late President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, in thinking that the cotton duties should be re-imposed as they existed two years ago. The objections generally advanced against these duties are founded on misapprehension. It has been over and over again shown in these columns that the duties cannot be protective in the case of the finer goods, for the simple reason that no such goods are manufactured in the Bombay mills, which are said to enjoy protection at the expense of Lancashire. Indian mills, no doubt, produce coarser goods ; but then it must not be forgotten that the protection afforded by the portion of the duty, which was surrendered in March 1879, was an accident only. The Indian cotton duties, as Major Evelyn Baring has rightly told Manchester men, are levied for purposes of revenue and not of protection. The rising cotton industry of India might be protected, according to the principle laid down by John Stuart Mill, so long as Indian operatives do not

acquire the skill and experience of the factory "hands" of Lancashrie. And in so far as the finer goods are concerned, the cotton duties are a most legitimate and unobjectionable source of revenue; and the rate of duty now levied on them does not at all press on the well-to-do classes, who consume these goods.

THE REPORT OF THE FAMINE COMMISSION.

X.

WE have now almost done with the first part of the Report of the Famine Commission, which treats of famine relief. We find we were in error in stating that the Commission had not discussed the question relating to the amount of food required to sustain the people of India in health and strength. This question is taken up under head VIII. which deals with such matters as could not be included within any one of the seven main rules of action laid down by the Commission. The Commissioners write: "The conclusion we draw from a careful examination of the evidence of authorities in all parts of India is, that on an average a ration of about 1½ lbs. per diem of the meal or flour of the common coarser grain of the country suffices for an ordinary working adult male. In the rice-eating countries an equal weight of rice may be accepted in lieu of flour, and in any case the ration should include a suitable proportion of pulse. A man doing light work would require about 1¼ lbs.; and the ration which consists of one pound of flour with a little pulse has been found sufficient to support life in numerous relief-houses, where no work is exacted, all over the country." The Commission recommend that on these bases the diet scale should be built up, it being understood that a female requires a little less than a male, a child below twelve years of age about half the allowance of an adult male, and a non-working child below six or seven about half as much as a working child. Thus even the ardent admirers and disciples of Sir John Strachey have been obliged to declare against Sir Richard Temple's famous one-pound ration. The scale of ¾ of a seer or about 1½ lbs. per head was adopted in the Bengal famine of 1873-74 by Lord Northbrook after due discussion and careful consideration. Sir Richard Temple himself wrote in 1874:—"The lowest diet provided in Bengal jails for non-labouring prisoners is equal to about 1 seer or 2 lbs. The ordinary diet of a labouring adult in Bengal is taken after statistical enquiry to be 1 seer of rice besides ¼ seer (about ½ lb.) of fish, pulse, pepper, or other condiments. The diet prescribed for emigrants on ship board and for Bengal sailors always exceeds 1 seer a day total weight, and in some cases it reaches two seers a day." In 1877, however, Sir Richard Temple who had always been conspicuous for official loyalty, changed his opinion, and thought that 1 lb. or ½ of a seer was sufficient to preserve the lives of the people of India. Every one knows the mischief, which was caused by the "bare subsistence policy" of Sir John Strachey in the late famine in Southern India. The insufficiency of the famous one-pound famine ration was conclusively shewn by Dr. Cornish, then Sanitary Commissioner but now Surgeon-General, of Madras, in the following words:—"It must be abundantly clear to the Government that if this new theory of Sir Richard Temple's is correct, *viz.*, that one pound of grain and a small money payment equivalent to three farthings is enough to keep a labouring man in health and strength while undergoing a fair daily task, then every administration in India has been for years past inciting people to break the law by providing criminals with a dietary beyond their actual necessities, and all the carefully recorded experience of the last 30 years, as to the effect of food on health in Indian jails must be regarded as worthless." This was crushing. In the teeth of these observations of Dr. Cornish and of the lamentable results which followed from the experiments with Sir Richard Temple's one-pound ration in the Presidency Jail of Bombay, even General Strachey and Mr. Elliot could not persuade themselves to recommend the adoption of the diet scale which committed such dreadful havoc in the Madras famine districts in the summer of 1877. Nevertheless, they have not been able to forget their love for the one-pound ration. They still think it sufficient for non-labouring people in relief-houses. When the lowest diet provided for non-labouring prisoners in Bengal is equal to about 1 seer or 2 lbs., the correctness of the theory that ½ of a seer is sufficient for the inmates of poor-houses is open to grave doubt.

The other matters discussed under head VIII. of the Report of the Famine Commission are the employment of artizans, the disposal of orphans, the utilization of subscriptions at the close of a famine, the treatment of subjects of Native States and Emigration. In the views of the Famine Commission on these subjects we are glad to be able generally to express our concurrence. As regards the disposal of orphans, the Commissioners rightly hold that the State should not take advantage of their helpless position to encourage proselytism, and recommend that efforts should be made to induce respectable and charitable persons to adopt orphan children. The utilization of subscriptions contributed by the public for the relief of famine-stricken people is a knotty question, which was vehemently discussed during the late famine in Southern India. The Commission think that such subscriptions should be utilized in two ways: (1) in supplementing the subsistence ration of Government with small comforts, especially in the case of hospital patients, of orphans and of the aged and infirm; (2) in enabling the sufferers to make a fresh start in life under favourable conditions. With regard to the treatment of the subjects of Native States who may apply for relief in British districts, the Famine Commission are of opinion that all applicants for relief should be treated alike, without making any distinction as to origin. We fully agree with them in thinking that the attempt to discriminate cannot be successful; while the plan of separating the subjects of Native States from the local poor and sending them back to their own country will probably be both futile and cruel. The only question which arises in connection with this case is, whether the Native States concerned should not be called upon to pay the bill for the support of their subjects in British territory in times of famine. The Famine Commission do not express any opinion on this question, but leave it for the decision of the Government of India.

Experience has shown that in time of famine people suddenly deprived of their usual employment and without any stores of food, leave their villages in despair, and wander in search of food or employment for themselves or pasture for their cattle. In the famine of 1868 herds of cattle were driven from Western Rajputana to Malwa, Central India and the sub-Himalayan pastures; and in the famine of 1876-78 the cattle of the Deccan were driven to the forests on the Western Ghats. "Such migration," the Famine Commission say, "is purely beneficial to those who start early enough on the quest; and though it often entails great losses on those who start late and arrive when all the best pastures have been occupied, the loss would probably have been as great had they remained at home. All that Government can do here is to aim at some control over the distribution of the incoming cattle, to open one tract after another as the first becomes filled, and to disseminate information as to the best roads to be taken. It may be useful also to adopt the course taken by the Government of Bombay in 1877 to facilitate the transport by rail of cattle travelling towards the pastures, and to place fodder for sale along the most frequented roads, though the latter measure proved to be unnecessary." The great thing to do in this matter is to relax the rigour of the forest laws. The people of India have from time immemorial enjoyed the privilege of grazing their cattle in the forests of the country. Since the organization of the Forest Department they have been summarily deprived of this privilege, without any compensation whatever. They are rigidly excluded from entering reserved forests; and the consequence is that in a season of drought they find it utterly impossible to preserve their cattle. Forest conservation is no doubt a desirable thing; but it is high-handedness pure and simple to deprive the people of the right of grazing their cattle in the forests of the country, which they had exercised from time immemorial. Even in ordinarily good seasons the people in many parts of the country cannot find sufficient pasture for their cattle. It was officially reported a few years ago that the agricultural classes in the north of Oudh were for this reason migrating to Nipal. The question is one of very great importance in an agricultural country like India, where more than two-thirds of the population entirely depend upon the land for the means of subsistence. Migration in search of employment or food in times of famine takes place on a considerable scale. Famine-stricken people proceed in large numbers to any place where there are hopes of finding employment or food. The Famine Commission observe:—"It has frequently happened that the numbers thus emigrating have far exceeded the powers of the country or town into which they penetrate to afford them employment or food, and great misery and mortality have ensued. Attempts have been made to prevent such migration, either by stopping the people on the roads or drawing a cordon round the town, or by relegating them to the country from which they came. These measures have generally been unsuccessful, and have often caused as great misery as that which they were meant to prevent. It is to be hoped that the arrangements we have suggested for village inspection and relief will obviate to a great extent this tendency to migrate, but should it still arise efforts should be made to discourage it by spreading information as to the condition of the tract to which the tide is setting, and to arrest the movement at its outset. The only steps that can usefully be taken beyond this are to provide the usual measures of relief, such as relief-works and relief-houses, in the most suitable places where such immigrants collect in large numbers." Now, migration in times of famine can only be effectually prevented by the timely adoption of relief measures. The people of India are so much attached to their homes and so much averse to leaving them that they do not break away from their villages until the last measure of grain is reached. It is then and then only that they leave their homes in despair, and begin to wander in search of food or employment. The want of timely preparation to meet famine encourages migration and leads to frightful confusion, waste and mortality. If the Government should be on the alert and adopt relief measures as soon as they are required, there would be no aimless wandering.

THE EPIDEMIC FEVER IN THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH IN 1879.

THE twelfth annual report of the Sanitary Commissioner of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh for the year ending 31st December, 1879, just published, contains an interesting and valuable history of the fever epidemic, which so virulently raged in those provinces during the last few months of the year. The deaths recorded from fever during the year were exceedingly great in number; and the outbreak to which they were due was of unprecedented violence. It apears that the mean ratio of deaths from this disease per 1000 of the population during the previous five years was 23·20 and the ratio of 1879 was 44·81. "The difference, 21·61' per 1,000 of the population," remarks Dr. Planck; the Satitary Commissioner, "indicated exactly 923,285 deaths;" and these figures, he thinks, "may be accepted as fairly representing the number of lives sacrificed to this unusual outbreak of disease." Thus in 1879 fever carried off in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh about a million persons in excess of the normal mortality from this cause of death. Even the oldest inhabitant of those provinces does not remember such a terrible outbreak of fever. The disease prevailed in every district of the province, with the exception of Kumaon and Gurwal, mountainous districts of the Himalayas. But it was extraordinarily virulent in certain districts, which Dr. Planck aptly calls "areas of especial prevalence." These areas of especial prevalence, he points out, form a con-

tinuous country, comprising the Doab and its immediately adjoining districts on either side. The district in which the prevalence was most severe were Bulandshahr, Aligarh, Meerut, and Etah. In these four districts a mean ratio of 96·7 deaths per 1,000 of the population was recorded, which gives almost one to every ten persons. We doubt whether in the worst fever-stricken tracts of Lower Bengal the mortality has ever been so frightful. In seven other districts, namely, Muttra, Mainpuri, Budaon, Muzaffarnagar, Hardoi, Farakhabad, and Agra, the mortuary returns recorded a mortality of more than 50 to every 1,000 of the population. In nine other districts, namely, Cawnpore, Etawah, Shajahanpore, Unao, Sharanpore, Fatehpore, Moradabad, Jhansi and Jhalóun, the ratio of fever deaths exceeded 30 per 1000 of the population. The monthly mean ratios of deaths of these districts clearly show that the fever commenced to exert its influence in August and September, culminated its severity in October and November, and commenced to decline in December.

The question now arises, what was the cause of this extraordinary fever prevalence in 1879 in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh? Dr. Planck thus answers the question :—"There can be no doubt that this cause was malaria. The history, symptoms and character of the disease, which I carefully studied for a long period of time passed in daily communication with the sick, can point to no other conclusion." There can be no manner of doubt that malaria was the cause of the extraordinary prevalence of the fever epidemic, which was so fatal in 1879 in the North Western Provinces and Oudh generally, and especially in the Doab and its adjoining districts. But this gives rise to one question. Why should malaria have been so unprecedentedly active in those Provinces in 1879? Dr. Planck says :—"I think it may be accepted as true that the approximate cause of this malaria prevalence, was the excessive rainfall of the year. The distribution and total amount of this rainfall may be learnt by reference to the returns of the Meteorological Reporter to Government. It is sufficient for the purpose of this argument to say, that the excess was well established in all portions of the Province. It is, moreover, certain that this full rainfall succeeded two years of deficient rain, and it seems reasonable to suppose that malaria in a year so characterized would be more than usually active." Well, if the epidemic fever raged with equal virulence in all the districts of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, it might solely have been attributed to the climatic conditions of the year. But it appears that of the 45 plains' districts in the united Provinces, 25 were districts of reasonable prevalence, in which the total ratio of mortality from fever did not exceed the average of 23·5 per 1,000 of the population; while the remaining 20 districts, as we said above, were areas of especial prevalence. Now, every sensible and right-thinking person will agree with Dr. Planck that "for so extraordinary and apparently quite unprecented violence of disease prevalence" in these 20 districts, we must look for some especial cause affecting only the people in that portion of the Province. The enquiry, as Dr. Planck observes, appears to be restricted to the discovery of a reason for the especial fatality in the Doab and its neighbourhood, of a disease cause affecting all the people of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

What was this reason? In discussing this most important question, Dr. Planck begins by pointing out that ever since the record of mortality commenced in the Province in 1868, its figures have witnessed an unusual prevalence of fever disease in the district of the Doab; and that there can be no doubt that before that record commenced, such prevalence in the Upper Doab had attracted the attention of Goverament. In 1867, the late Dr. Cutcliffe was deputed to make an enquiry into the nature and cause of the unusual fever prevalence in that part of the country. He reported that the cause of the fever was increased moisture in the land—the same cause to which the late lamented Raja Degumber Mitter attributed the fever epidemic of Bengal. The districts in the Upper Doab were formerly very healthy; but the mortuary returns of the last ten years show that while the provincial mean ratio of fever deaths has been 17·5, the mean ratio of fever deaths for the seven upper districts of the Doab has been 24·0 for the same period. These figures need no comment: they speak for themselves. Again, three of these seven districts, namely, Muzaffernagar, Meerut and Bulandshahr, are shown to have been a land of excessive fever prevalence during the last ten years. The mean ratio of fever deaths of the districts of the middle Doab *viz.*, Farakhabad, Etawah and Cawnpore for the last ten years is 20·2. In Agra and Muttra which consist of land partly in the Doab and partly outside it, the fever ratios of 1878 and 1879 were high; *but for the eight preceding years the ratio of the districts does not exceed the provincial ratio in one instance.* This is a fact the significance of which cannot be over-estimated, when it is borne in mind that canal irrigation was introduced into the portions of Agra and Muttra which lie outside the Doab in 1877. From the very next year a remarkable rise in the fever mortality of the two districts was observable. From a mean of 12·8 from the previous years, the ratio suddenly mounted to 48 for 1878 and 59·6 for 1879. The figures given above show a peristent high ratio of fever mortality in the districts into which canal irrigation has been introduced. Dr. Planck writes: "There is but one circumstance which can account for this peculiarity of disease prevalence, and that is canal irrigation. As the result of local enquiry and investigation extending to all portions of the country influenced, I have on previous occasions recorded the opinion, that the excessive prevalence of malaria in the Doab, and its neighbourhood, is due to the increase of moisture, which has entered into its land, since the introduction of this form of irrigation. And I think the mortuary records will be found to uphold this view in a remarkable degree." There is every reason to believe that if records of mortality had been in existence for the years of first commencement of canal irrigation in the Upper Doab, they would have exhibited a sudden rise in the ratio of fever mortality, as has been shewn in the case of Agra and Muttra. We may here state that the people of the Doab firmly believe that the increasing prevalence of fever in that part of the country commenced with the introduction of canal irrigation. As irrigation from the Lower Ganges Canal is now being introduced into the districts of Fatehpore and Agra, we shall shortly have an excellent opportunity for further judgment as regards this most important question.

It may be argued that as the areas of special fever prevalence in 1879 included the districts of Moradabad, Budaon, Hurdoi and Unao which are not irrigated by canals, the theory propounded by Dr. Planck cannot be maintained. But the Doctor shows that there is nothing unreasonable "in supposing that a subtle agency, like malaria, may extend its influence outside the land of its actual formation, and the same reasoning will apply to the unirrigated portion of the Doab itself." Again, the mortuary returns "indicate that malarial influence was specially active during 1879 in the Doab, in the beds of the rivers which hem it on either side, and in the land bordering the rivers on either side." It is a remarkable fact that in the districts of Budaon and Hurdoi, the circles which show the highest ratio of fever mortality are those which border the Ganges, and that mortality decreases as the circles are distant from the Ganges. After a careful consideration of the facts and figures adduced by Dr. Planck no intelligent and unprejudiced person can resist the conclusion that the presence of excessive malaria in the Doab is due to the introduction of canal irrigation. That this conclusion does not commend itself to the approval of Sir George Couper, is scarcely surprising.

ROMANISATION AGAIN.

THERE is nothing so bad of which something favorable cannot be said. Even the murderer caught red-handed can find as many barristers and advocates as he can pay for to defend him with the highest flow of eloquence. It is not remarkable, therefore, that more than one member of the 'Roman Akshara Sabha' should be found bold enough to defend the cause of the Romanising Mania. It is not often, however, that the arguments urged are sufficient and satisfactory. Certain it is that we cannot predicate any thing satisfactory of the defence we publish in another column. In fact it is no defence. The questions at issue are,—1st, is it possible to have one alphabet for all the languages current on the earth? and 2nd, if so, is the Roman alphabet the best for the purpose? "A Member" has shirked both, and, with the adroitness of a practised controversialist, has, with a view to throw the onus of proof on us, raised the two subsidiary issues of—1st, whether or not, the Roman alphabet is universal in Europe? and 2nd, when was the art of writing introduced into India? This may be ingenious, but it is not ingenuous. It may be a legitimate dialectic weapon; but it serves to divert attention, and mislead the public. We cannot better illustrate this than by giving our experience of a debate on the nondual theory of the Vedanta, at which we were present. On the one side was a lean, lanky, Bengali Pundit, who had devoted his whole life-time to the study of the subject; and on the other a big Hindustani, who had read nothing beyond the grammar of Panini, but who had a goodly following of eight sturdy pupils. The Hindustani began the debate by asking—"what commentaries on the Vedanta have you read?". The Bengali answered, "those of Sankara and Madhva Acharya." "What is Madhva?" "The name of a commentator." "How is the word derived?" "From the noun Madhu, meaning honey?" "What is honey?" and so on the debate proceeded for two mortal hours without one word being said of nondualism, the sturdy pupils clapping their hands at every question, and jubilantly vociferating "*Bahva*! *Bahva*!" "A Member" might secure a similar response from his insensate following of subs and simpletons, by his new questions and Hingaritic mystifications; but he will be no near the solution of the original questions at issue. Three long articles on the subsidiary questions will be more than our readers will tolerate, and after that nothing written on the subject will be read.

But to turn to the first question of our opponent. We repeat what we said in our last that the Roman alphabet is *not* universal in Europe in the only sense in which universality can be predicated, namely that every given symbol should everywhere represent the same sound; and if it does not, there can be no universality. Thus, if A be in sound the equivalent of B in one language, of C in another, and of D in a third, there is no universality, though there may be the same shape everywhere. Take for example the letter V; it has, in English, a sound midway between B and W, and in Persian stands for the figure 7. The man would be hardy, indeed, who would on this similitude of shape argue that the V was common both to the English and the Persian. If we are not misinformed, "Roman Alphabet" means the Alphabet of the Romans; but this is not what the Romanisers advocate, but something derived from it. The Romans had only 20 letters in their alphabet. This was found insufficient for their successors, the Italians, who have 22 letters. The Dutch have the same number. The Spaniards and the French have 25; the Germans and the English 26; and the Russians over 30. In a loose way one may call all these Roman alphabets; but are they intrinsically the same? Are 20, 22, 24, 25, 26 and 30 the same number? If not, which is the Roman alphabet for which our friends are fighting? But the numbers apart, are the sounds of the letters that are common in shape the same everywhere? Our correspondent himself admits they are not; and if not, how can we call the different alphabets the same, which differ in the number of letters and their sounds, but agree in having several letters of one common shape? In the case of the Germans even this cannot be predicated now. The letters of the several languages do not even suffice to produce with moderate accuracy the same sounds everywhere. A ludicrous instance of this occurs in Harrison's book on the English language. Two English travellers saw, on an English grave at Florence, an epitaph to the memory of *Johannes Acutus*, Eques,

and taking *Acutus* to be a Latin version of sharp, believed the grave to be of one Sir John Sharp. Such a person, however, was unknown to them, and they set to enquire, and at last came to learn that as the Latin had no K, nor W, and the initial H was generally cockneyised, the Florentines had pronounced Hawkwood, *Acute*, which with the nominative case affix became what they found in the epitaph. Had the alphabet of the English and the Florentines been the same, John Hawkood would never have been metamorphosed into Johannes Acutus. Our correspondent anticipates our argument by saying that the failure of letters to convey sounds is no fault of theirs, or, to quote his language, "to give such a reason is to blame a machine for not doing what it never proposed to do." This is startling, indeed, for we always thought that letters were designed to be faithful emblems of sound and nothing more, or the only duty which the machine is intended to perform is to convey to all and sundry who know it, one uniform system of sounds and no other; and if it failed to do that it is utterly useless.

Our correspondent has a grand flourish of trumpet about the value of the Roman alphabet, of which he says, "it is a striking proof of the versatility and practical utility of the oldest alphabet in the world that it should have been able to adapt itself with ease and accuracy to every member of this Babel of tongues." The premises for this are, however, all wrong, and the conclusion, therefore, falls to the ground. The Roman is not the oldest alphabet; it is much later than the ancient Egyptian, the Cuneiform, the Phœnician, the Hebrew, and even the Greek, and, as shown above, it has not been able to adapt itself to different languages without availing itself of the aid of new letters, and various incrustations on old ones, and giving up its own original system of sounds. Nay, even after that in each language it is so uncertain that, in English, for instance, pronouncing dictionaries have to be put into requision to do what the letters by themselves should have done. As to its "versatility and practical utility," we see nothing "striking" or wonderful in any given number of shapes, being, at option, used to indicate anything we choose. Figures of birds and beasts have served for letters in Egypt; arrow-heads have done the same in Assyria and Babylon, and congeries of small lines variously combined have produced forty to fifty thousand idiographs in China. Numeral figures serve the same purpose among merchants and politicals, and even our fingers variously held up suffice to complete an alphabet for the dumb, not to advert to the different systems of stenography and telegraphic alphabets brought to use of late.

Our correspondent is really very amusing when he says, "if our opponents are thinking of an ideal alphabet which shall contain in itself separate characters or symbols sufficient to express every known sound in human speech perhaps the Roman alphabet will not please them; but then it must be remembered that they are thinking of a Chimera." We call it 'amusing' because there is something of the 'Box and Cox' about it in this festive season. It is a good hit, but on whom does it fall? Who was it that broached the idea? Was it the *Patriot*? or our correspondent's colleague, "the High Priest," in whose behalf he has taken up the cudgels against us? It was "the High Priest," who advocated "one single character for the whole of the civilized world," and we ridiculed the idea as Utopian like the Salutland of Dr. Richardson. 'A Member' now very conveniently uses a synonym of our Utopia by accusing us of cherishing a "Chimera." This cannot be very creditable to his sincerity. Nor was the "High Priest" the first person who broached the idea. Sir Charles Trevelyan and other advocates of Romanising had done the same before him, and he followed in their suite. Alas! that he should be so soon thrown away like a squeezed lemon. He may now well exclaim with a brother High Priest,

> "Had I but serv'd my God with half the zeal
> I serv'd my king, he would not in mine age,
> Have left me naked to mine enemies."

But the "priest" apart, if the object be not what he assumes it to be, it would be well if our correspondent, or one of his colleagues, or his Society would issue a formal authentic Prospectus of what is proposed to be done, so that we may have something tangible to deal with, instead of being driven to fight with phantoms.

Adverting to the second question "A Member" says, "I know of no Sanskrit alphabet, but only of an alphabet supposed on good authority to have been derived from the Hingaritic in use in Sou hern Arabia, and thus descended from the same source, the Phœnician, as the Roman alphabet." We do not understand this sentence clearly. "A Member" certainly cannot mean that the only alphabet he knows is a Hingaritic one, for he unquestionably knows the Roman alphabet also. Again, he cannot mean that the Roman alphabet is derived from another and more ancient one, for he has in a preceding para said it is "THE OLDEST ALPHABET IN THE WORLD." Lastly, it is not likely that he means that the only Sanskrit alphabet he knows is of Hingaritic origin. If he does, he confounds the Aryan once current in trans-Indian regions with the Sanskrit. That Aryan was written from the right to the left, whereas the oldest Sanskrit was written from the left to the right; and between the two there is not a single letter that can be proved to be similar. As to the date of the Sanskrit letters being the middle of the third century B. C., the question was first started by Dr. Max Muller, and the reply given to it by the late Dr. Goldstucker in a 4to volume of 268 pages is conclusive. We cannot reopen it in the limited space of a weekly newspaper. We hold that the letters to be seen on the Asoka pillars, are the archetypes of all the later Indian letters, and that in the progress of transition, or in course of usage on different materials, they have become so markedly different as to appear as new alphabets. And as this change has taken place notwithstanding the governing effect of unity of religion and, in many instances, unity of language, it is a positive proof of the failure we wrote of. To talk of the Gupta, the Kutila and other intermediate forms of writing and their relations to each other, is a mere waste of time. No one denies that there are many links between the present forms and their archetypes.

In his postcript our correspondent has a gentle smile at us about our two j's, and two s's. It is a mark of hilarity in which we specially delight. It serves as a relief from the tedium of prosing over bogus budgets and such other drudgeries to which we are doomed. Besides, the objection is a good one. When at school in our infancy we too had a similar idea. We thought English grammarians very obtuse and wicked in giving us three k's, c k and q, two j's, g and j, and two s's, c and s, when one of each kind would have been ample, and would have saved us much trouble. Our correspondent also denounces Englishmen for their "obstinacy" in writing l a u g h and pronouncing the letters together as laf. We do not much mind about this fling against his countrymen, for we believe they are his countrymen; it is harmless enough; but it shows that the present Romanising Mania has a concomitant, or, as we call it, an *Upasarga*, in "fonetik craze." *Quæ fuerant vitia mores sunt.*

NOTES OF TRAVEL IN THE N. W. P.

BY A TRAVELLER.

III

Among the natural objects to be seen in Jeypore there is a beautiful Lake called the Silisear at a distance of 6 miles from the capital situated in the midst of hills, which is very romantic indeed. There are pleasure boats in it; Lord Lytton had boating here. On the north side of the lake the Maharaja has a little palace, I had a dawk laid and was able to visit the lake.

I was also allowed to visit the Maharaja's Jail under charge of a European. A cleaner and better managed Jail I did not see before. There were about 500 prisoners male and female in the two different Jails. One was pucca and the other kutcha. The male prisoners, though heavily ironed had still their *Merjyés*, dhootis and pagris and shoes on and looked very healthy. How unlike the convicts in our Jails, who are beastly dressed with a *Jangia* and *bunian* and so look like so many biped tailless baboons. I saw some excellent carpet weaving. Among the prisoners. I saw a boy aged 12 years, who mistook me for a person in authority and commenced to weep. I asked the Jailor what his offence was, he called the boy and read his ticket, which showed that he had been guilty of disobedience of orders; he was a confirmed pick-pocket, and though several times punished he had not given up his habit, so at last he had been banished from the Maharaja's territories and ordered not to return to it, again he had disobeyed this order for which he has been sentenced to be kept in confinement for six years until he attained his majority. I heard this was a sort of reformatory punishment. He was, however, heavily manacled and cried bitterly in order to be restored to liberty. He is an orphan and has a young sister for whom he often cried, so she too has been confined in the female prison where the boy sees her oftener. The case of these two prisoners appeared to me quite inexplicable. The Maharaja, however, I was glad to hear, always tempers justice with mercy. The Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code are the guides to the Criminal Law here. On the day I arrived there his minister showed me a case in which his council had sentenced a female to 7 years' imprisonment which the Maharaja very considerately reduced to 3 *years*.

I also had the honor of an audience with the Maharaja, who is a young man, courteous, gentle and affable. Pride and vanity and the sense of an elevated position seem quite foreign to his nature and he leads a life pure and simple. When I went in, His Highness was surrounded by his Council and high officials whom he gently asked to withdraw, and thereby afforded me an opportunity of speaking to him alone.

Cotton grows in abundance in this territory. Nearly 20 lacs of revenue is derived from this source. The finances of this little territory are under the able management of the minister Lala Sriram in a flourishing condition. Major Law, a "navy of the Great Brazen Lord" is the Political Agent here. He and the Maharaja were, I heard, great friends. From Ulwar I went to Jeypoor, which is a magnificent city, no one who goes from Bengal to Upper India should return without paying a visit to Jeypoor. A more handsome and picturesque city perhaps there is not. The pucca two-storied houses on both sides of the streets are nearly of the same size. The ornamental work is the same which has added considerable beauty to them. The streets are the broadest of any to be seen elsewhere, they are well cleaned and watered and lighted with gas. I saw in the streets towards evening a couple of leopards held with rope by their keepers. They were quite tame and were I heard exposed to public view for sale. I also visited the educational institutions which were very well attended as also the School of Art all under Bengali management and in excellent condition, I also visited the Maharaja's garden outside the city. It has evidently been laid out by European hands and is a very splendid garden indeed. I heard some dissatisfaction expressed there for the abolition of some useful institutions of the late Maharaja.

I am guilty of a truism when I say that Jeypoor under the late Maharaja Ram Sing and under Bengali counsel and advice has really become a model native state. I heard that the late Maharaja's untimely death was universally regretted by all classes of the people, throughout Rajpootana.

A visitor to Jeypoor must also go to Aumar the ancient capital some 7 miles to the north. The castle enclosing the palaces is built upon a hill and all are kept in very good condition. I saw here in a vale within the palace boundaries the goddess *Jussoressures* belonging to Raja Protap Aditya Roy of Jessore of Bidya Soonder celebrity, which Raja Man Sing, a general of Emperor Jehangir, carried away from Jessore. It is an excellent image of the goddess Kali. The visitor must provide himself with a pass from the Maharaja's durbar before he goes there.

From Jeypoor I went to Ajmere, the city of Ajmere of Pooranic celebrity, which is 82 miles from Jeypoor. It is a walled city and there is a hill within it. In ancient India this was an historical city. The objects of interest to be seen here are *Arasagar*, a sacred lake for bathing largely resorted to by pilgrims, the fort of Taraguth built more than 700 years ago and the splendid Mosque of Khooje Main Uddin Sisti, who was a great saint highly venerated by emperor Akbar, who once visited the pious saint for obtaining his blessings. Whilst here I witnessed an interesting ceremoney. It appeared that an inhabitant of this city had acheived the victory for wrestling elsewhere, so he was marshalled through the streets preceded by torch bearers and dancing girls and music. You see how personal valour is still highly valued in Upper India.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

WE ARE glad to observe that a movement has been set on foot in London to found a memorial in honor of Dr. Edward Goodeve. The memorial will take the form of a bust and a scholarship at the Calcutta Medical College. Dr. Forsyth has become the Chairman of the Committee and Dr. Patridge, the Honorary Treasurer. There are numerous pupils of Dr. Goodeve in this country, who we dare say will be glad to do honor to the memory of their deceased Professor. They ought to form a local Committee for the collection of subscriptions here.

THE STATESMAN opportunely brings to light a case illustrative of the illegalities and high-handed proceedings, in which Mr. Mosley, the Magistrate of Moorshedabad seems to delight. In this case the Government fishery had been leased to an amla of the Magistrate *benami*, the benamdar claimed possession of a *bil* not included in the Government property, he charged the fishermen, who caught fish there, with trespass; the late Babu Guruchurn Das, Deputy Magistrate, dismissed the charge, notwithstanding a hint from the Magistrate that "it would be the duty of the Deputy Babu to keep an eye over (not to lose sight of) the interests and cases of Government." The matter was appealed to Mr. Moseley, who finding his hands tied under the rules of the High Court, of his own motion instituted a case under Section 530 of the Criminal Procedure Code with a view to determine who should be maintained in possession of the disputed *bil*, and passed the following judgment

on the 28th July 1879:—"I decide that the 1st party, Mohimchundra, is in possession up to the Metala bridge, and I forbid the 2nd party or any others to disturb him in that possession till he is ousted by due course of law." The fishermen appealed to the High Court, which has set aside Mr. Moseley's order as illegal and without jurisdiction. Mr. Moseley's vagaries we believe are too well known to the Government to require recapitulation.

WE ACKNOWLEDGED in a recent issue the receipt of Notices of Sanscrit Manuscripts Vol. V. Part II. No. XV. by Dr. Rajendralala Mitra. The appendix contains a letter from the editor to the Secretary to the Asiatic Society giving an account of his labours on this subject. We cannot resist the temptation of reproducing the following from it: "As a native of India, cherishing deep respect for the memory of those who have contributed so largely to the literary reputation of my native land, I look upon the work as a labour of love, and long earnestly to be able to place before the learned world of Europe an inventory, such as my work is intended to be, of the literary relics the people of India have inherited. Their extent is vast. In Liddell and Scott's Dictionary the total of Greek authors, whose works have descended to modern Europe, has been computed at 553, and of Latin authors of the classical period the total according to White and Riddle's Latin-English Dictionary is 218. Whereas of Sanscrit authors the total may be computed at four thousand, and the number of their works at 20,000, inclusive of Jain and Buddhist works. In a single catalogue, that of the Tanjore Collection, the total of Hindu authors given is 740. The comparison is, perhaps, not fair, as I am not in a position to supply the number of ecclesiastical and Byzantine writers who were numerous, nor that of mediæval Latin authors, but the figures here given will, I hope, suffice to show that the literature with which I am concerned is in every way worthy of the consideration which has been so generously extended to it by Government, and that the money spent on preparing an inventory of its relics has not been wasted." Our countrymen may well feel proud of the vast extent of the ancient literature of their fatherland, and Dr. Rajendralala Mitra is laying them under a debt immense of endless gratitude by exploring the field.

WITH REFERENCE to the report of Mr. Monro, the late officiating Presidency Commissioner, to Government on the subject of the Krishnuggur fever we have received the following from our Krishnuggur correspondent:

"Perhaps the Government and the public are satisfied from the Officiating Presidency Commissioner's report on Nudden fever and mortality that the worst is over, and that there is no more fear of the epidemic committing more ravages. I will say nothing to contradict Mr. Monro's statements, but content myself with the following figures which will enable the Government and the public to judge whether the worst is actually over and all grounds of fear have ceased to exist The death returns of the Krishnaghar Municipality show that in August, September and October of 1879 the deaths were 28 35, and 54 respectively in the corresponding months of the year about to close, the deaths were 120,178, and 253 or 551 in all all against 117 in the previous year In the month of November of the current year the deaths in Krishnaghur in five out of six wards were 307 In December current though the month has not yet expired the deaths have been 50 in excess of the last month. Now as regards the moffussil stations we have figures from the villages surrounding (1) Krishnaghur and Nobodip and its suburbs (2) from Hauskhally, (3) Kissengunge (4) Mhapra (5) Nakasiparah (6) Kalligunge (7) Mahernur and its surrounding villages (8) Meherpur town (9) Tehatta (10) Kureempore (11) Sangna (12) Bongong (13) Guaripottah (14) Sharsha (15) Gyghatta (16 Gopalunggur and (17) Napara or Mirpur and the deaths at these places were (1) 328 (2) 524 (3) 309 (4) 438 (5) 503 (6) 489 (7) 581 (8) 65 (9) 758 (10) 691 (11) 604 (12) 203 (13) 532 (14) 640 (15) (16) 355 (17) 714 I make no mention of the places in the Kustea Choadangah and Ranaghat Sub-divisions except Napara where the mortality is comparatively less The aggregate of the deaths in November last was 16000, which was considerably in excess of those in October"

Now about the adequacy of the relief measures On the outbreak of the epidemic form in September last Baboo Ramgopal Sanyal had written to the the Municipal executive, which ended with a recommendation from the Civil Surgeon to appoint a peripetetic compounder, who should be provided with the requisite medicines It was only when Mr Monro visited this place at the latter end of last month that he wrote for two native doctors and requested the Manager of the Nuddea Raja's estate to spend Rs 250 for medicines for the Raja's ryots Only Rs 50 have been sanctioned from the Municipal funds to afford relief through a native doctor in Rampara This is all the relief given to the sufferers in the town; what has been done for the distressed in the interior may be imagined.

We are really surprised that there has been so much apathy among the local officers, when thousands are being carried away by the fell fever. And this has happened within hail of the capital!

WE HAVE received the following two letters annent the North Suburban Municipality:

DEAR SIR,—I beg to draw your attention to the following which appeared in the *Bengalee* of the 6th November last and which seems to have escaped the notice of the Press.

"We understand that a gross case of embezzlement has been discovered in the South Suburban Municipality. The authorities are holding a preliminary inquiry into the case and if, our information is correct, the Head Clerk of the Office, whose duty it was to keep the cash and the accounts, has disappeared on the first discovery of the matter.

Permit me to add that the South Suburban constitutes with two other Municipalities, namely the North Suburban, and the Rajpur Municipality what are called Home Municipalities, having one Head Clerk and other establishment at the Alipur head-quarters for all three. Large sums of money remain to be accounted for in all; these three Municipalities. The Head is also another Beni, being named Beni Madhub Roy. Mr. Editor, will you kindly by drawing the attention of the public and the Government to them prevent the preliminary enquiries which are being held by a Sub-Committees at the three Municipalities from being made a farce of as fears are entertained that an attempt will be made to hush up the matter.

Barahanagur, The 11th December, 1880. Yours truly N.

DEAR SIR,—Mr. H. Lee, Joint-Magistrate of 24-Pergunnahs, and Chairman of the North Suburban Municipality, has thought fit to address the following letter to an Honorary Magistrate, and a public spirited Municipal Commissioner, held in high esteem by successive Chairmen and presiding Magistrates at the Bench Court and who received a Certificate of Honor on the assumption of the Imperial title by Her Majesty And all this for an alleged encroachment on the public road.

"You have grossly and flagrantly encroached upon the public road. Show cause why you should not be removed from the list of Commissioners in disgrace."

The facts of the case are these:—A wall was raised on the road side upon an old foundation which was dug up and found to be existing in layers, and it was seen by the Vice-Chairman and the Municipal overseer. The area of the land contained in the Mourasi Pottah was not exceeded and some stumps of old hedgeposts are also in a line with the old foundation. And yet the Chairman who was accompanied by the Vice-Chairman and the Municipal Overseer condemned the wall as an encroachment. I hear after the submission of the explanation called for, Mr. Lee is rather anxious that the resignation which has been tendered by the insulted Commissioner should be withdrawn. Even admitting for argument's sake an encroachment upon a public road is it a sufficiently important ground for grossly insulting a Commissioner, who has done such valuable services to the Town for a long period? Will you, Mr. Editor, kindly take some notice of this matter and oblige.

Barahanagur, The 10th December, 1880. Yours truly N.

The last is a strange case. If there was really an encroachment, which our correspondent denies, the offender should have been prosecuted under the Municipal law, but because he happened to be a Commissioner, that was no reason that he should have been insulted in the way he has been. If young civilians dare play such fantastic tricks under the very shadow of Belvedere, one may well imagine what they may do in the far Mofussil. May we venture to express a hope that His Honor the Lieutenant Governor will make a sifting enquiry into the matter.

WE STATED in our last issue that the Maharani Shurnomoye has subscribed Rs. 5000 to the Patriotic Fund. In her letter to the Secretary she gives expression to the following noble sentiments:

I have always at heart the well-being of my fellow-creature, be they a Christian, Mahommedan, or Hindu, and nothing in my estimation is weightier than that which can contribute, in however a small measure, towards its furtherance. It is neither the love of earthly honor, nor the idea of securing an idle name that actuates me to come forward to the relief of the really deserving, for I beg to assure you that I have none of those aspirations that border upon vanity or ostentation. I feel myself morally bound to assist the distressed whom I regard in no other light than sisters and brethren; and though I know that my help in such cases is, as it were, but a drop in a vessel, considering the extent of demand, yet I feel happy when I reflect that my mite goes to add to the general contribution to the cause of suffering humanity.

Sir Richard Gath, President of the Central Committee, Patriotic Fund, has acknowledged the Maharani's letter in suitable terms. Sir Richard says:

As President of the Central Committee, I beg to say that I accept your most generous contribution with our heartiest acknowledgment of the sentiments which have prompted you to render so liberal an aid to the good cause, our appeal on behalf of which has been so munificently responded to.

May Maharani Shurnomoye live long and do good to humanity!

THE JUDGMENT of the Chief Justice of the North West High Court in the appeal case of the editor of the *Indian Medical Gazette*, who had been fined by the Magistrate for defaming Dr. Hall, has been published. His Lordship goes fully into the particulars of the case, and is of opinion that "the prosecution has utterly failed, and it is very much to be regretted that it was ever undertaken. Again, I am very clearly of opinion that the conviction before me in this appeal cannot stand, but must be, and it is, set aside, the sentences are quashed and the fines imposed on the defendants are remitted." We need not go into the particulars of the case, as they are already well known to the reader. But we regret to observe that the question of jurisdiction has not received some attention at the hands of the Chief Justice. Referring to the publication His Lordship incidentally remarks, "it was laid down so far back as at the State Trials that—"If a man write a libel in London and send it by post addressed to a person at Exeter, he is guilty of a publication in Exeter." (12 St. Tr. 332.") If this dictum settles the question of jurisdiction, it is we must confess a dangerous doctrine. An editor in Calcutta may be dragged to Peshawar on the pretext that his paper circulates there. The mere cost of defending a suit from Calcutta in Peshawar may be ruinous to the defendant. It is a pity that this point was not more specifically noticed by the Chief Justice.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN GENERAL DEBILITY AND EMACIATION.—In cases of Debility and Emaciation, the powerful curative influence of Dr. de Jongh's. Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is graphically described by Sir Henry Marsh, Bart, M. D,. Physician in Ordinary to the Queen in Ireland, who, after extensive use, strongly recommended this preparation, and observed: "I have frequently prescribed Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil. I consider it to be a very pure Oil, not likely to create disgust, and a therapeutic agent of great value. "This eminent Physician remarks "with strumous and emaciated subjects, and where the general health is impaired, this remedy tells with peculiar efficacy. The reviving and reanimating effects of a regular daily course of this animal Oil are highly satisfactory. Its favourable action on the system is renovating; it checks progressive emaciation, restores the *yielding health, rebuilds, as it were*, the tottering frame, and brings about a most remarkable and salutary change in all the vital functions." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints and quarts, with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the lable under wrapper, by all chemists, druggists and store-keepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co., 77, Strand, London.

COMMERCIAL.

(FROM OUR COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Saturday, 24th December, 1880.

Our commercial markets in consequence of the XMas Holidays have had only three working days in this week during which time nothing of importance has transpired, either in Imports or Exports, except two public sales of Indigo on the 20th and 21st Instants consisting of 2167 chests which found buyers at previous rates, the total quantity disposed of up to date is about 7200 Mds.

MONETARY.

No change either in interest or discount, three per cent. continues to be the minimum rate at the Bank of Bengal.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

This market has rather been less active and prices slightly dropped which were on the evening of the 22nd Instant. Rs. 99-14 99-15 for 4% 108-15 to 109 for 4½%.

JOINT-STOCK SHARES,

Nothing of importance has transpired.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.	Rs.	As.	P.
Secretary, Bhagulpore Public Library	20	0	0
John Beames Esq., C. S., Chinsurah	5	0	0
Sangli Native General Library	13	4	0
Secretary Reading Room, Seringapatam	14	6	0
Secretary Bibigunge Reading Club	3	6	6
Bedh Raj, Jheelum	3	5	0
R. Wallnutt Esq., C. E., M. A., Mymensingh	10	8	0
Dynprocash Press, Poona	20	0	0
Monwar Das, Esq., Jamui	3	0	0
T. Kalisunkor Shahi Esq. Ranchee	13	4	0
Baboo Okhoycoomar Bose, Begumgunge	10	0	0
" Chundernath Nundi. Sylhet	20	0	0
" Mohendranath Hazrah, Jessore	13	4	0
" Greeshchunder Ghose, Baboegunge Hooghly	13	4	0
" Beharylal Banerji, Kooshtia	5	0	0
" Beharylal Mookerji, Jhenidah	13	4	0
" Womeschunder Banerjee, Goda	12	0	0
" Luckhipersad, Rohini	3	5	0
" Gobindpersad Sukul Nattore	13	4	0
" Shamachurn Chatterji. Gosyedurgapore	4	0	0
" Krishto Dhone Chowdry, Burrabhoom	6	10	0
" Devendranath Banerji. Menakhan	3	10	0
" Gungadinath Mookerji, Dacca	5	8	0
" Hurrymohun Sanyal, Darjeeling	3	0	0
" Chundercoomar Chatterji. Rajpore	13	4	0

Correspondence.

ROMANIZATION OF INDIAN ALPHABETS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

SIR,—In fulfilment of my intention to examine seriatim the arguments raised in your issue of the 6th December against the use of the Roman Alphabet in writing Indian languages I now take up the first point.

It is alleged that the experiment of using the Roman character in a large group of European languages and that of using one Sanscrit alphabet for all the Indian languages have both failed, and you argue from this that an attempt to apply the Roman character to Indian as well as European languages must necessarily be a failure also. It is further asserted that, even if successful, the attempt would not be useful.

This argument is of the kind defined as petitio principii or in common English "begging the question," and consists in first assuming the very point to be proved, and then building up fresh propositions on it.

Let us, however, begin at the beginning. Is it true, let us ask, that the application of the Roman Alphabet to European languages has been a failure? Small as it is, this alphabet has been found by Englishmen, Frenchmen, Italians Spaniards, Portuguese &c., for some centuries past, sufficient to express all the sounds in their language. How is it then a failure? Because, if I understand the meaning of the article rightly, it does not enable an Englishman to pronounce French exactly at right. But to give such a reason is to blame a machine for not doing what it never proposed to do. An Englishman who wishes to know French or any other foreign language has to learn it, and while learning it naturally also learns the sounds given to the letters in which it is written. The fact that these letters are the same as his own does not dispense with the necessity of learning the different sounds given to them in the foreign language. Uniformity of letters by no means as our opponent assumes, pre-supposes uniformity of sounds, not at least if it be meant that any given letter must always sound the same in every language in which it is used, and in every combination within that language. The Roman alphabet is used to express a large number of European languages. *Some, as is well known, belong to the Roman group of the Aryan family, others again as Dutch, and English to the Low German branch of the Teutonic group, while French Spanish and Roumanian represent a mixture. Roman sounds superimposed on a stratum of conquered nationalities of various kinds, Celtic, German, Basque, Iberian Slav* and what not. It was inevitable that all these varied peoples should possess sounds peculiar to themselves, and it is a striking proof of the versatility and practical utility of the oldest alphabet in the world that it should have been able to adapt itself with ease and accuracy to every member of this Babel of tongues.

If our opponents are thinking of an ideal alphabet which shall contain in itself separate characters or symbols sufficient to express every known sound in human speech, perhaps the Roman alphabet will not please them; but then it must be remembered that they are thinking of a chimera. Even if such an alphabet could be got, it could not be kept. The Englishman would find in it symbols for sounds which he did not possess in his language, and he would consequently not use them, the Frenchmen would similarly drop other symbols for which he had no use, and so all other nations, so that in a generation or two you would have those sounds which were common to all languages in use in all which each language would have preserved in addition certain special symbols unknown to other languages for its own peculiar sounds. Surely this result would not be so satisfactory as that brought about by the use of the Roman alphabet which supplies the wants of many languages by the simple expedient of making one letter do duty for several different sounds.

I fear to encroach too much on your space, otherwise I could enlarge this argument very considerably, but I hope I have said enough to convince your readers that the Roman character as applied to the European languages has in no sense proved a failure.

I turn now to the second example of failure adduced by the writer, viz that of "the Sanscrit alphabet."

I know of no Sanscrit alphabet, but only of an alphabet supposed on good authority to have been derived from the Hingaritic in use in Southern Arabia, and thus descended from the same source, the Phœnician, as the Roman alphabet. From the rude square character of Asoka to Bengali or Devanagari is a long step, and both the latter alphabets are mere things of yesterday when compared with the immemorial antiquity of the Roman alphabet. But whatever he may have meant by Sanscrit alphabet the writer of the article under discussion says that it is a failure because it was current all over India and in the adjacent countries, but now a number of different alphabets derived from it are in use in different provinces. That assumed rise of different alphabets from one common source the writer ascribes to local peculiarities of pronunciation and argues that the Roman alphabet if introduced into India would undergo similar changes and become in course of time not one but many.

With reference to the latter remark I have to observe that it is one of the special merits of the Roman alphabet to resist tendencies to disintegration by that happy elasticity which admits of a church having more than one sound. The Indian character have not this faculty, and one could argue from the one to the other. But apart from this I must ask again, is the writer not begging the question? Is it true that there was ever one universal character in use all over India? I venture to think not.

The ancient sacred poems of India were handed down orally, and the earliest writing we know of is found in the Buddhist inscriptions of Asoka, in the third century B. C. These it is true are found all over India, but this is no proof that the character was used by the people for practical purposes. On the contrary the presence of Buddhist monasteries close to each inscription seems to show that it was contemplated that there would always be some one at hand to read them to the public. Then we find the alphabet of the Gupta dynasty, then the Kutila. It is from the Kutila [illegible] modern Bengalee is derived, whilst as Burnell has shewn, the characters used in Southern India go back to an allied but by no means identical character. Urya also gets its character from Central and Southern India, while the Punjabi derives from the Gupta, and so does the Thibetan. The variations in the shapes of letters observable in the languages derived from Southern and Central Indian types are notoriously not due to local peculiarities of pronunciation, but to the practice of writing on palm leaves which necessitates rounded form in preference to straight lines. There is undoubtedly no good reason for asserting as is done by the writer of the article that the Sanscrit alphabet "has been current all over India, and yet under the inexorable rule of *genius loci* has ceased to be one and has become many."

The object of this letter is confined to a consideration of the first argument put forward by our opponents, and is designed to shew that neither the Roman nor the Sanscrit alphabets have been failures in their respective spheres and that consequently no vaticination of the certain failure of our Society's undertaking can be based on the history of the "two experiments," of Europe and India alluded to by the writer of the article under comment.

A MEMBER OF THE ROMAN AKSHARA SABHA.

P. S. Since writing the above I have had the pleasure of perusing your short comments on my last letter to which you have so kindly given a prominent place in your issue of the 13th. Allow me to ask with reference thereto whether it is quite fair to blame the Roman alphabet because the Englishman chooses to write laugh and pronounce it laf. Is this the fault of the machine or the obstinacy of the man, be it justifiable or not in charge of it, who insists on retaining an absolete spelling in the face of phoneticism, just as Bengalis, for the same reason, use শ ষ স, as three symbols and ক্ষ and য as two symbols for one sound. No alphabet should be held responsible for the ideas, idyosincracies, ignorance, or prejudices, etymological or otherwise, of those who use them.

Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette,—*December* 22, 1880

GENERAL.—Baboo Pran Krishna Das, temporary Sub-Deputy Collector of Bagirhat in the district of Jessore, is allowed leave for one month, under Sections 4—1 and 16, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under orders of the 28th September last.

The orders of the 14th instant transferring Mr. C. A. Kelly, District and Sessions Judge of Furreedpore, on leave, to Dinagepore, are cancelled.

The orders of the 14th instant, transferring Mr. L. B. B. King, Ditrict and Sessions Judge of Dinagepore to Furreedpore, are cancelled.

Baboo Bemola Charan Bhuttacharjee, Deputy Magistrate and deputy Collector, on special duty in connection with the Gya escheated estates, is allowed leave for three months, under the rules in Chapter VII of the civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

Moulvi Nusseeruddin, Sub-Deputy Collector Buxar, Shahabad, is allowed leave for three months, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he avails himself of it.

Moulvi Wajid Hossein is appointed to act as Sub-Deputy Collector of Buxhr, during the absence, on leave, of Moulvi Nusseeruddin, or until further orders.

Mr. D. R. Lyall, Officiating Inspector-General of Police is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of the 24-Pergunnahs, during the absence, on leave of Mr. W. S Wells, or until further orders.

Mr. H. S. Beadon, Officiating Magistrate and Collector 24-Pergunnahs, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Balasore, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. T. Norman, or until further orders.

Mr. H. G. Cooke is appointed to act, until further orders, in the First Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, and is posted to Balasore on being relieved of his present duties, as Officiating Magistrate and Collector of that district.

Kumar Rameshwara Sing, Assistant Magistrate Collector, Bhagulpore, is allowed leave for one month, under Section 3, supplement B. B. of the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. W. O' Reilly, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Buxar, Julpigoree, is allowed leave for three months, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 1st January 1881, or any date on which he may be relieved.

Mr. E. M. Reily, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Serajgunge, Pubna, is appointed to have charge of the Buxar division of the Julpigoree district, during the absence, on leave, of Mr, W.O' Reilly or until further orders.

Mr. C.A. Samuells, C. S., reported his departure from India on furlough, on the 21st November 1880.

Lieutenant J. H. Warren, of the "B" or Kurseong and Terai Company of the Darjeeling Volunteer Rifle Corps, is allowed leave to England for one year, with effect from the 1st Januaay next.

The following officers are appointed to act until further orders, as Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors of the first Grade, with effect from the dates mentioned opposite their names:—

Mr. H. G. Sharp, from the forenoon of the 6th ultimo.
,, C. R. Marindin, ,, ,, ,, 18th ,,
Mr. H.H. Birch, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is posted to the district of Gya.

Advertisements.

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COLLEGE REUNION.

The College Reunion takes place for the third time, at the well known "Emerald Bower" of the Hon'ble Maharajah Joteendra Mohun Tagore Bahadur C. S. I. on the 4th of February next—the day after the Sarasvati Puja. The following gentlemen compose the office bearers of the Reunion, with power to add to their number.—

The Hon'ble Maharajah Joteendra Mohun Tagore Bahadur C. S. I.
Dr. Rajendralala Mittra, L. L. D., C. I. E.
The Hon'ble Rai Kristodas Pal Bahadur C. I. E.
Babu Juggodish Nath Roy.
,, Issur Chunder Mitter Ray Bahadur.
Mr. Omesh Chunder Dutt.
Babu Baikanta Nath Bose.
Rajah Sourendra Mohun Tagore Bahadur C. I. E. *Honorary Secy.*
Babu Khagendranath Roy, *Honorary Asstt. Secy.*
,, Nobin Chunder Mookerjee, *Honorary Treasurer.*

Gentlemen wishing to read short poems at the Reunion should send in the same to the Assistant Secretary on or before the 15th January next. The Committee of the Reunion reserve to themselves the right of selecting poems sent for perusal. The following will be the programme of the day.

1. Instrumental music, Sarada, Setar, Sur Bahar, Kanun, Nastarang, Flute, (Bengali Bansi) &c. &c.
2. Vocal music, Dhrupada, Tappa, Khagal, Kirtan &c. &c.
3. Plays, Farce, Rasas of the Hindus, with Murtti and Chundakes or Tableux and Dramatic Pieces, illustrating their character.
4. Gaib's Chess Play.
5. Sajit Chaturung *i. e.* to say living people in proper characters will represent the balls.
6. Various games such as cards, chess, dice &c. &c.

As usual, there will be proper refreshments for the assembled guests. Printed cards of admission to be had at the "Hindu Patriot" Press, the "Indian Mirror" Press, of Babu Khagendra Nath Roy, at No. 6, Juggodish Nath Roy's Lane, Simla, Calcutta and of Babu Troylucko Nath Banerjee at the Senate House. The value of a ticket is only 1 Re.

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A Special General Meeting of the Commissioners of the Town of Calcutta will be held at the Town Hall, on Friday, the 31st December 1880. *at* 4 P.M.

BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

1. To consider the Budgets for the year 1881 as revised by the Special Committee.
2. To fix the rates and taxes for the year 1881.
3. The Chairman to move "that this Meeting is satisfied by the report of the Engineer and Health Officer that the block of huts known as Nather Bagan is attended with risk of disease to the inhabitants and the neighbourhood, and that Dr. Coates and Dr. Harvey be accordingly invited in accordance with Section 280 of the Act to inspect those localities, and to make a report in writing to the Commissioners on the sanitary condition of the said blocks of huts."
4. To confirm the Proceedings of the Town Council at a Meeting held on the 18th December 1880.

ROBERT TURNBULL,
Secretary to the Corporation.

22nd December 1880.

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Stalls, (Carpeted Seats)	Re.	1
Gallery, (comfortable Seats) ...	As.	8

Zenanas, with Private Entrance for Native Ladies, Rs. 3 per Chair. Children, under the age of 12 years, half price, to all parts of the House except Gallery. The enormous size of our Pavilion (there being comfortable Seats for 4,500 people) renders it possible for the management to make this liberal reduction.

N. B.—All Bills against this Company must be presented for payment at the Circus, on Tuesday, from 2 to 4 p. m.

G. AGRATI,—*General Agent.*